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OPINION METER

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Project Completed

IT&E completed the latest phase in its multi-million dollar Next Generation Network project for the CNMI and Guam.

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Eriess Davis didn't want a traditional wedding: No conservative music and rows of unfamiliar guests.

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Next Uprising

The possible heirs of Egypt's uprising took to the streets Monday in different corners of the Middle East.

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CNMI gets cuts in Obama's 2012 budget request

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

President Barack Obama's proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget means less money for the CNMI.

Under the president's \$474.4 million budget request to support U.S. insular areas, the CNMI will only be getting some \$9.523 million in capital improvement project funding in 2012.

This is some \$500,000 less than the 2011 CIP funding of some \$10 million, said U.S. Office of

RELATED NEWS

Obama budget: Some cuts, not the slashes GOP asks

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Insular Affairs systems accountant Keith Aughenbaugh.

The 2012 CIP funding is also less than the FY 2010's \$10.9 million, and FY 2009's \$11.3 million.

But while the CNMI got a half-a-million cut, **See CNMI on Page 4**

Fitial accepts Younis' resignation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has accepted the resignation of Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Maria Paz Younis and said he intends to appoint her replacement soon.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, confirmed this yesterday adding

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Younis



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PUBLIC HEARING

Joe Lifofoi, right, prepares to leave his seat after addressing a Senate committee on his and that of Barry Toves' reappointments to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors during a public hearing on Capitol Hill yesterday. Inset shows Lifofoi and Toves with Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), other senators, and CPA board members and management. **See story on Page 2**



ON PIDB BOARD

Fitial wants Benavente out, Torres in

»But regional bank tells governor to follow proper procedure

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) to replace House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) on the Pacific Islands Development

Bank Board of Directors, but PIDB president and chief executive officer Aren Palik wanted Fitial to follow proper procedures in nominating somebody to become a board member.

Palik told Fitial that he and Benavente shall jointly nominate Torres and such nomination must be submit-

ted to the PIDB Board of Governors for action.

PIDB is a regional development financial institution based in Guam. Its members include the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said this was not the requirement when Benavente replaced then Rep. Justo Quitugua on the PIDB board.

He said Fitial thus requested PIDB to provide a copy of its articles of incorporation and bylaws.

"The governor is also awaiting a letter from the presiding officers of the Legislature in support of having

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EPA: CUC needs project management assistance. PAGE 2

'Local companies may have to have pay more to retain valued employees.' PAGE 6

Local

ON NOMINATION OF 2 CPA BOARD MEMBERS

EAGI panel to recommend full Senate confirmation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations will be recommending the full Senate to confirm the governor's reappointment of Joe Lifofoi of Saipan and Barry Toves of Rota on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's board of directors.

Lifofoi and Toves received overwhelming support to their reappointment during a public

hearing that the Senate EAGI Committee held yesterday morning.

The Senate gallery was full of supporters of the two nominees, mostly from the CPA management and staff from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, confirmed that the panel will be recommending full Senate confirmation of the two appointees.

"All public comments we re-

ceived, whether verbal or written, will be included in the report that we will be submitting to the full Senate. We haven't received any opposition. We will be recommending confirmation but it will be up to each senator whether they approve or reject the nomination," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing.

Lifofoi, in a separate interview, said he appreciates the support given to him by those who testified at the public hearing.

He said if confirmed by the Senate, he will continue to prioritize the rehabilitation of the main runway of the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International

Airport, and the rehabilitation of the Rota harbor, among other things.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta first nominated him to serve on the CPA board. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial reappointed him during his first term as governor. In January, then acting governor Eloy S. Inos again nominated Lifofoi.

"If I get confirmed, I'll be serving on the CPA board for almost 10 years," added Lifofoi, who served as House speaker in the 5th Legislature. He is currently the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc., and is also the Republic of Palau's honorary

consul general to the CNMI.

Most of those who testified in favor of Lifofoi and Toves' reappointment talked about the need for "continuity" in leadership on the CPA board, their hard work and their commitment to serve the public.

Nine individuals testified in support of Lifofoi, and nine also testified in support of Toves. Nobody testified opposing their nominations. Many of them testified in both Lifofoi and Toves appointments.

Press secretary Angel Demapan introduced the two nominees and asked that the EAGI Committee recommend full Senate confirmation.

Besides Demapan, the others who asked the Senate to confirm Toves and Lifofoi's nominations were CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, Daniel Sablan, CPA Rota port

manager Tom Manglona, CPA seaport manager Maryann Lizama, former Senate president and current CPA board member Joseph Mendiola, former representative Ben "Kappon" Sablan, House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), CPA Ports Police chief Jordan Kosam, CPA board member and former representative Ben M. Sablan, Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), and CPA airport manager Edward Mendiola.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) already expressed voting for the nominees, during the public hearing.

The other senators present at the EAGI hearing were Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

Sasamoto admits punching veterinarian, but claims self-defense

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Defendant Jeremy Togawa Sasamoto yesterday testified in Superior Court that he indeed punched a veterinarian, but claimed he did it in self-defense.

After the testimony of the 37-year-old Sasamoto, the prosecution and the defense counsel conducted their closing arguments.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona, who presided over the bench trial, said she will announce the verdict today,

Wednesday, at 11am.

At the continuation of the trial yesterday, defense attorney Robert T. Torres called Sasamoto to the witness stand.

Sasamoto testified that on Nov. 25, 2009 at about 5:30pm he parked his car in the parking lot of Paradise Island Veterinarian Animal Hospital in Chalan Lau Lau.

Sasamoto said he knocked on the door of the clinic because he wanted to get the medical records of his mother's dog that died after being treated by Dr. Edgar Gordon Tudor.

Sasamoto said when Tudor walked out of the clinic, he asked him about the medical records of his mother's dog.

The defendant said Tudor put his one hand on his (Sasamoto) shoulder and told him to move away.

Sasamoto said he deflected the veterinarian's hand, then the doctor put his bag on the floor and confronted him.

Sasamoto said Tudor stated: "You feel froggy? Jump!"

At the time, Tudor's face was close to his face, accord-

ing to Sasamoto.

The defendant said Tudor then put his fists up so he punched him on the face.

He said when the veterinarian fell on the floor he tried to help him in getting up.

Sasamoto admitted he cursed at Tudor because he was very upset the way he treated his mother at the clinic and because of what happened to the dog.

In the government's closing arguments, assistant attorney general Tiberius Mocanu said Sasamoto blamed the doctor over the dog's death.

Mocanu said the evidence is clear that Sasamoto knew that the hospital was already closed yet he proceeded and confronted the doctor.

Mocanu said they were able to prove sufficient evidence to support the charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The prosecutor said the evidence corroborated Tudor's testimony that Sasamoto choked the doctor that resulted in a laceration above the doctor's left eye.

Mocanu said a witness testified that he observed Sasamoto's aggressive posture.

He said the doctor put his hand on Sasamoto's shoulder so he could leave as the defendant was blocking his way.

In the defense closing arguments, Torres said Sasamoto was only defending himself because he was threatened when Tudor had his fists up.

"He's (Sasamoto) not gonna wait until he gets hit. He perceived the harm to be imminent," Torres said.

Torres said if Sasamoto's intention was to harm Tudor, why was it that the defendant did not kick or punch the doctor more while he was on the floor.

In fact, the lawyer said, Sasamoto even tried to help the doctor in getting up.

Torres said Tudor was the initial aggressor when he cursed at Sasamoto and told him to get out of his way.

Torres said by punching Tudor, Sasamoto stopped the threat.

"Jeremy (Sasamoto) has the privilege to defend himself," he added.

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ON NUMEROUS OIL-RELATED PROJECTS OF CUC**EPA: CUC needs project management assistance**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. needs project management assistance to implement its numerous oil-related projects.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien stated in the report filed on Monday in federal court that getting project management help is imperative especially in the absence of a Technical Manager for Oil (TMO).

William Sword used to fill the TMO position, but he reportedly resigned effective Dec. 17, 2010. CUC has until May 16, 2011 to hire a TMO.

CUC's oil-related projects include modifying secondary containment; cleaning, testing, and repairing oil storage tanks; constructing a new oil pipeline; development of a response program with necessary equipment and; investigating and cleaning up oil contamination at its facilities.

O'Brien said complicating the implementation of the CUC projects is the use of many different contractors for the work.

"Overseeing all of the contractors and project activities, many of which will be occurring simultaneously, continues to be a challenge," O'Brien said.

The EPA counsel pointed out that even if CUC had a TMO in place, it is hard for CUC to effectively oversee all of this work with its existing limited staff.

He said they have asked CUC to assess its current and needed project management and capabilities, including the possibility of retaining an experienced environmental consulting firm to provide project management for stipulated order work.

On the need of TMO, O'Brien said it is an extremely critical position for CUC, especially because the oil work is active and requires a qualified manager in this position.

EPA has provided a list of places where CUC could post the vacancy announcement for the TMO. CUC has already posted to four of those locations.

O'Brien said EPA has encouraged CUC to "cast a wider net" so they will have a better posi-

tion to find a qualified TMO.

In the interim, he said, EPA

has approved Venu Prabhakara as the oil project coordinator, but he

is not qualified as the TMO.

"Even with Mr. Prabhakara

working as the oil project coordinator, EPA believes that additional technical and project management assistance is needed at CUC to successfully manage the oil-related projects," O'Brien stressed.

SHEFA: 150 students have pending documents for Spring application**»87 applications failed to meet requirements; notices of denial to be sent**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance disclosed yesterday that there are a total of 150 students who have yet to submit their complete documents for Spring semester grants, while 87 applications failed to meet the program requirements as of yesterday.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider said those with pending requirements have until Feb. 28 to turn in their supporting

documents or their applications will be denied.

For spring semester, SHEFA received 630 applications and as of yesterday 87 were found not eligible for financial assistance and will soon be notified of their denial.

Hofschneider explained that based on program policy, students who are denied of the grants could ask for reconsideration to the administrator and may appeal their case to the board chairman if dissatisfied with the adminis-

trator's decision. The policy provides denied students ten days to appeal their case.

As of yesterday, SHEFA is finished reviewing applications with complete documents and is waiting for those pending requirements such as class schedule and school transcript of records.

Compared to Fall semester 2010, SHEFA recorded over 900 applications from both off-island and on-island students.

Starting this spring semester, all students approved of their ap-

plications will start receiving a lower financial assistance after the board enforced an across-the-board cut on all grant awards: grant-in-aid, priority field of study, and incentive program. The reduction—ranging from 25 percent up to 50 percent—was a result of the dwindling budget for the scholarship program that is being source from the poker revenues and license fees.

Hofschneider said the lower financial assistance will remain in effect until changed by the board.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter on April 8-10

When was the last time you spent time alone with your spouse to reconnect and share some true quality time?

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!.

The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on April 8-10 at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao. Cost is \$50 per couple.

For further information or a registration form, please

contact Wayne & Boni Pangelinan at 483-5587, Jun and Linda Pangelinan at 483-4111, Venny and Mary Rose Ruwaath at 287-9953, Fr. Ike Ayuyu at 234-8888, or Vince and Hilma Castro at 287-8089. (PR)

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TOYOTA

Federal court denies ex-guard's 4th motion to be released on bail

The federal court yesterday denied former detention guard Tyrone Farley Reyes Fitial's fourth motion to release him on bail.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Marilyn Huff adopted the reasons cited by the previous orders that denied Fitial's requests to be released on bail.

Huff will issue a written ruling on the new motion.

The court denied the defendant's previous requests to be released on bail due to the seriousness of the offenses and danger pose to the community, among other reasons.

In Fitial's latest motion for release, defense attorney Joseph Norita Camacho cited that the Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA test on the second batch of samples in connection

with the case against Fitial, also reached with a questionable conclusion.

Camacho said with respect to the second batch, the FBI Laboratory concluded that Fitial and the alleged victim can be excluded as being the source of the hair obtained from Fitial's vehicle.

Camacho said to booster its case, the U.S. government on

Dec. 22, 2010 obtained a warrant to obtain pubic hairs from Fitial.

The lawyer said his client complied with the warrant and provided samples.

He said the FBI Laboratory conducted the DNA test on the second batch of samples on Jan. 19, 2011.

Camacho noted that the FBI's DNA test on the first batch of samples also reached with "no

conclusion."

Camacho again proposed to release his client to two custodians—defendant's mother and his common-law wife.

The lawyer said he learned that a judge may not be available in April to preside over the April 18, 2011 jury trial.

The U.S. government opposed the motion. Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto said

Fitial has simply not presented any new evidence material to the issue of his dangerousness that would justify the court reopening the detention hearing.

The indictment charged the 25-year-old Fitial with deprivation of rights under color of law and enticement of a minor for allegedly forcing three female wards to engage in sex acts. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

CNMI

From Page 1

Guam gets almost the same amount of CIP funding, \$6.1 million.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said there is a process that OIA follows to determine the amount of CIP funds for the territories.

"As is done in prior fiscal years, the Commonwealth and the rest of the territories submit their proposed spending plans for consideration. In our case, the CNMI's proposal for FY 2012 totaled \$13 million for various capital improvement projects. However, OIA has informed the Commonwealth that of the \$13 million, only \$9.5 million will be allocated," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI's Compact-Impact funding remains at some \$1.9 million, Aughenbaugh said. This is almost the same level as it was in FYs 2011 and

2010 because of huge drop in the population of Freely Associated States citizens.

The CNMI used to receive \$5.2 million in annual Compact-Impact funding from OIA when the FAS citizen population was still huge.

Of the \$27.7 million in current mandatory appropriations, American Samoa is scheduled to receive \$10.1 million in CIP funding; the CNMI, \$9.5 million; Guam \$6.1 million; and the U.S. Virgin Islands, \$2 million.

Top 5 CIPs for CNMI

The Fitial administration proposed \$13 million in priority CIPs to OIA for FY 2012, consisting of five priority projects on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, based on a copy of the CNMI's CIP spending plan for 2012.

But because OIA's allocation for the CNMI's CIP is only \$9,523,000 the five priority projects remain but each will have reduced funding.

On Saipan, the Fitial admin-

istration is prioritizing Saipan water projects, to improve the quantity and quality of water delivered to customers. The administration asked for \$6 million to fund these ongoing projects, but OIA's funding for this is only \$4,532,250.

The Fitial administration also pursues the Garapan revitalization project in 2012. This will restore funding reprogrammed for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College and implement the Orchid Street redevelopment and further improve Paseo de Marianas. The CNMI asked for \$2 million, but OIA's funding will only be \$1.35 million.

A new project by the Fitial administration will explore geothermal energy on Saipan. OIA funding is \$1.26 million, but the CNMI had asked for \$1.75 million.

The project will measure the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan by drilling a well to a depth of 2,000 feet in the Gualo

Rai district.

Total OIA funding for Saipan's CIP is \$7,142,250. The CNMI government requested \$9.75 million.

On Tinian, the only priority CIP for 2012 is the construction of a Tinian landfill worth \$1,190,375. The CNMI had asked for \$1.625 million.

For Rota, the priority CIP for 2012 is also the construction of a landfill with funding of \$1,190,375. The Fitial administration asked for \$1.625 million.

OIA funding

OIA, in a statement yesterday, said that Obama has proposed a budget of \$474.4 million for OIA in FY 2012.

The current appropriations request includes \$59.5 million in discretionary funding, \$27.7 million in mandatory funding, and a \$10.1 million transfer from the Department of Defense for vehicles and supplies for the transportation of civilian students on Guam.

In addition, \$377.1 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations is estimated for 2012 for fiscal payments mandated by law to U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Tony Babauta said the 2012 budget request demonstrates Obama's continued commitment to the well-being of the U.S. insular areas while remaining fiscally disciplined.

"Among the strategic investments we are making, we are proposing to take big strides toward helping the insular areas implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects recommended by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory in assessments funded by OIA in 2010," Babauta said in a statement.

He said the budget proposal also reflects OIA's commitment to addressing the impacts of the U.S. Marines' relocation to Guam.

"These funds demonstrate strong interagency collaboration in support of the President's commitment to a 'One Guam' approach to managing the relocation and will be used to purchase public safety equipment and fund technical assistance projects that help the local government better serve the civilian community," he said.

The 2012 budget proposal will also support efforts to control the invasive brown tree snake on Guam, assist coral reef conservation initiatives, and support the operations of the American Samoa government.

Permanent appropriations for 2012 include \$145 million in payments to Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Guam is slated to receive an estimated \$45 million in taxes collected in the territory via the IRS "mirror" code that are by law transferred to the Government of Guam to support its public safety, health care, education, and other services and operations.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Rep. Torres represent the Commonwealth on the PIDB," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

'Politics'

Benavente, in a separate interview, said the Fitial administration is "wrong" in saying that this is a different requirement from before.

"The governor didn't sign the letter alone, to replace Quitugua at the time. PIDB has the same procedure in replacing board members. I don't know where the governor is coming from. I can only assume it's politics," he said.

Torres, along with Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), recently voted against Benavente to become the next speaker and

voted instead for then Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

In a separate phone interview yesterday, Torres confirmed receiving a call from Fitial telling him that he would like Torres to replace Benavente on the PIDB board.

"I'll be happy to serve on the PIDB board," Torres said, adding, however, that no reason was cited for the need to replace Benavente.

Fitial wrote to Palik on Feb. 10, thanking Benavente for his services as a member of the PIDB board of directors and for representing the CNMI with respect and leadership.

In that same letter, Fitial said in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of PIDB, he wishes to appoint Torres to "replace" Benavente as a board member of PIDB.

But Fitial did not cite the

reason for replacing Benavente with Torres, in his letter to Palik, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Sources on Capital Hill said it may be related to PIDB's rejection of a loan application filed by an individual close to the Fitial administration.

"We are confident that with the experience and knowledge that Representative Torres possesses, the CNMI will be well represented in the Board of Directors for PIDB," Fitial told Palik.

PIDB process

Palik, in a response later dated Feb. 11, said Article 13, Section 5 of the Articles of Agreement of the Bank requires that the two governors representing each member shall appoint—subject to the approval of a majority of the Board of Gov-

ernors—one person to serve as a director representing that member.

"In the case of the CNMI, you and Rep. Diego T. Benavente are the two governors representing the CNMI. Therefore, if the CNMI wishes to change its member on the Board of Directors, you and Representative Benavente shall jointly nominate Rep. Stanley T. Torres and such nomination must be submitted to the Board of Governors for action," Palik told Fitial.

Palik said the prior week, PIDB dealt with this same issue as Kosrae State wishes to change its member on the board of directors.

He said pursuant to PIDB Articles of Incorporation, the two members representing Kosrae on the PIDB board of governors jointly nominated an individual to replace the

current member.

"That nomination will be submitted to the board for action at its Yap meeting later this month. Yours will also be included upon receipt of your nomination letter jointly signed by you and Representative Benavente," Palik told Fitial.

PIDB is headed by a 14-member Board of Governors who represents the shareholders of the bank. Fitial and Benavente are members of the PIDB Board of Governors.

The Board, however, delegates oversight of bank operations to an eight-member Board of Directors. Benavente is a member of the Board of Directors. The management team led by the president and CEO, meanwhile, runs the daily operations.

The CNMI, Yap, Palau, Guam, and Pohnpei have al-

ready completed their required membership equity capital of \$1 million each.

Benavente, who served on the PIDB board for almost 20 years, said the CNMI stands to benefit from the regional bank in the not-so-distant future, through funding of critical infrastructure projects.

"We have an almost bankrupt bank to a thriving one," he added.

PIDB was established in July 1989 in response to a long-standing desire on the part of small island nations for a development institution that would focus on the pressing needs and problems of the region. The bank helps foster sustainable economic and social development in the member countries through its lending program and operation and technical assistance, among other programs.

YOUNIS

From Page 1

that Younis' resignation letter has been received by the Office of the Governor.

"The Office of the Governor has received Mrs. Younis' resignation letter and has learned that she is now off-island tending to personal matters. In view of this and the importance of the functions of the Board of

Regents as it continues to address accreditation matters, the governor is poised to accept the former chair's resignation and begin the process of identifying potential candidates to fill the vacancies on the board," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC, due to its failure to address the deficiencies identified by the accrediting commission, was imposed a continued show-cause status and has until March 15 to submit a report. Failure

to satisfy the commission may result to the institution's closure as cited in the show-cause order early this month.

It was on Thursday last week when Younis handed her resignation letter to the board of regents during a closed-door session. A copy was believed later transmitted to the governor but was not confirmed Monday by the administration.

The board has two vacancies at present including the post

left vacant by Charles Cepeda who also quit due to personal reasons last year.

Despite Younis' departure, interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera said the college is confident that it could meet the deadline and would not hamper the institution's efforts in addressing the commission's concerns.

According to the board's legal counsel, Jesus C. Borja, any member of the regent who tendered his or her resignation—

with or without acceptance from the board and the governor—is considered officially out when he/she submits resignation paper.

"In my opinion, if a member indeed submit a resignation letter to the board and to the governor—as a courtesy—technically, the member is officially out whether the resignation has been accepted or not. It doesn't require approval or acceptance," he explained yesterday. Borja, however, refused to com-

ment on Younis' resignation and pointed out that his statement is merely a personal opinion as a practicing lawyer.

Saipan Tribune still failed to get a response from Younis on the reasons behind her resignation, which many described as "untimely" for the college.

Younis began serving her term on the board in July 2009 and had served as vice chairperson prior to becoming its chairperson in October last year.

Bill to create 9-member commission to review legislation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) prefled a bill on Monday seeking to create a nine-member commission that will review pending legislation to ensure that funding is included in the provisions of a measure, should it become law.

The proposed Commonwealth Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform will be under the Office of the Governor.

Santos, in her House Bill 17-160, said there are times when laws cannot be implemented because of lack of funding for its implementation.

She said besides reviewing

legislation to ensure funding provisions, the proposed commission should also be tasked with identifying policies to improve the CNMI's fiscal condition and achieve fiscal sustainability in the long run.

Under HB 17-160, the nine voting members of the commission will include the governor or lieutenant governor who shall

chair the panel; the Finance secretary; the special assistant for management and budget; one member each of the House and Senate to be appointed by the speaker and president; one member each from Rota and Tinian; and two members representing the private sector.

The panel's mission includes proposing recommen-

dations to balance the budget, and propose recommendations that improve the fiscal outlook, including changes to address the solvency of the NMI Retirement Fund.

The commission will also propose recommendations to reduce the government's debts and liabilities, and to achieve long-term fiscal sustainability in its operating budget. This includes reducing the gap between the government's projected rev-

enues and expenditures.

Under the bill, the commission has to submit recommendations within 10 working days after legislation has been provided to it for its review.

The commission will also have a staff headed by an executive director.

Under Santos' bill, the governor is authorized to transfer funds of up to \$20,000 from Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations to establish the commission.

NMC's CUC account now up to date

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College said yesterday that it has paid all of its outstanding arrears at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and that its account is now up to date.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC paid in full its remaining balance last Feb. 7 and is now current in its billing as of December 2010.

The college said its billing for

January has not been received but assured the utilities firm that from now on it will fulfill its obligation on a timely manner.

The college estimates that its average monthly utility consumption amounts to \$75,000. Funding for NMC's utilities is usually sourced from the college's operational budget.

"The Northern Marianas College takes its obligations to CUC, and with all other external partners, seriously," said NMC

interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera yesterday, adding that the "provision of a comfortable learning environment for our students is one of our highest priorities, and we will continue to ensure the delivery of consistent water and power to all of our instructional sites."

Prior to settling its outstanding arrears, Cabrera said representatives of the college and CUC met numerous times to reconcile some inconsistencies

with its accounts.

She said they are grateful to CUC staff who worked diligently to ensure that NMC's billing reflected the college's accurate consumption of electricity, water, and sewer services.

Saipan Tribune learned that the college has also implemented cost-cutting measures to reduce

energy consumption, including upgrading air-conditioning units to more energy efficient ones. It has also taken steps to eliminate unnecessary overhead lighting in hallways and various offices.

The interim president said the college is also exploring grants and other financial sources to make NMC more "green."

CUC earlier disclosed that NMC is among its top three clients that recorded the highest delinquency on their accounts. As of Nov. 30, 2010 the college incurred \$563,311 outstanding obligation to the utilities firm. The two other delinquent customers include the central government and the Public School System.

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- SATURDAY, February 19, 2011 – 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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Regents scrap OAG proposal to lower procurement threshold

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents rejected the proposal of the Office of the Attorney General to lower the institution's procurement threshold and voted to keep its current threshold policy to address the college's audit findings.

With a vote of 4-2 during Thursday's special board meeting, OAG's recommendation of

a \$10,000 threshold for procurement was defeated by maintaining the \$25,000 current threshold figure.

It was on Dec. 17 when the OAG provided its comment on the proposed procurement regulation of NMC. The suggested \$10,000 threshold reflects the central government's current procurement policy amount compared to the NMC's existing \$25,000 threshold, which follows the federal procurement

threshold on large purchases.

According to regent Frank Rabauliman, who voted to follow the central government's threshold, opening or maintaining the threshold at \$25,000 would expose the college to a lot of questioned costs in the future and would be cited for more audit findings.

"The reason of a lowered threshold is clear competition to get the procurement contract. But if you were to raise that amount

to \$25,000...there will be more room for abuse at a higher cost," Rabauliman told his colleagues prior to the voting.

Rabauliman, who is also the executive director for the Division of Environmental Quality, believes that following OAG's recommendation will be of best interest for the college which has been cited numerous times in audit findings because of sole source and procurement issues.

Majority of the members,

meantime, believe that it is important to keep the threshold at the current level to address audit citations.

Then board chair Maria Paz Younis described the OAG's proposed amount as "impractical."

Prior to the voting, the college's management recommended adoption of OAG's proposal citing the recommendation to lower the threshold would still give NMC tighter control of procurement and will

give the department a clear direction on how to procure and avoid findings.

The management reported that NMC has now a detailed step-by-step procurement procedure on getting quotations, purchase orders, and emergency procurement.

The NMC procurement policy has been in effect since 2000. In 2007, the college attempted to revise the threshold amount but failed.

'Local companies may have to have pay more to retain valued employees'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HR Support, CNMI president and owner Frank L. Gibson warned that management and human resource challenges for companies in the CNMI will become more severe in

the future.

"We're going to hit the market value situation where you're going to end up paying more for the talent that you need because of the competition," Gibson said yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

Gibson, who holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a master's degree in Public Administration, was the guest speaker during the regular membership meeting of the Saipan Rotary Club.

Gibson noted the importance of training employees as



CLARISSA V. DAVID

HR Support, CNMI president and owner Frank L. Gibson gestures as he talks about the services provided by his company during the Saipan Rotary Club meeting yesterday. Looking on is Rotary president Glen Perez.

those who are in either lower and upper level positions are "ready to move on if they find something better."

With the challenge of losing talented and skilled people

in the CNMI to the neighboring island of Guam, Gibson acknowledged businessman Anthony Pellegrino for his efforts in training local residents to acquire necessary trade skills at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute which unfortunately he said is "too little too late."

"But we really need to push things like that, train our local citizens, and try to keep them here rather than heading off-island. They are our own human resource," Gibson added.

He also noted that the minimum wage increase will cause problems in both small and big businesses in the Commonwealth.

"As wages go up, their margin is probably going to get to a point where it's not profitable, even for larger companies," said Gibson, citing H-Mart as an example of a company affected by the minimum wage increase in the CNMI.

Public Law 110-28, or the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, provides for \$0.50 per hour additional increases in the CNMI minimum wage annually, except for 2011, until it reaches the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour in 2015.

Even with the delay in the minimum wage increase this year, Gibson said the minimum wage hitting \$7.25 per hour is

still inevitable and must be dealt with accordingly by training existing workforce to become more efficient at work.

"Employees need to be developed and they need to be brought to a par where they can do more with less," he said.

However, Gibson said some companies tend to cut back on training their employees because of the economic situation on the islands as human resources do not generate revenue.

"But what human resources does is it helps assist the revenue-generating functions such as the recruitment of the right person for the job," he noted.

According to Gibson, human resources or the employees of a company are the most important part of any business.

"It's very important that the human resource side of the equation is looked at very carefully and proper steps are taken to know the human resources you have, to develop and utilize them," he said.

Gibson said the trainings that HR Support, CNMI provides for government agencies and private companies include federal law compliance, topics related to equal employment opportunities and labor, as well as management skills.

For information, call 322-3204.



CNMI Water Task Force ITB 11-GOV-045



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the procurement of the supply and delivery of various materials for use in the optimization of the water wellheads on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders must bid on all items. A contract will be awarded to one supplier for all bid items

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 26, 2011**.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 9, 2011**.

Sealed Bids must be marked "**Supply of Wellhead Materials**", **ITB11-GOV-045**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower base, Saipan no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days of receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011** and must be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the Official government postal service no later than **February 24, 2011** and must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than **March 7, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **2:00 p.m., local time, March 8, 2011**. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, the bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m., local time, February 24, 2011**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and deliver of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ **Benigno R. Fitial**
Governor and Contracting Officer

/S/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement and Supply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0185
-v-	FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITIAL and FRANCISCA S. FITIAL, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

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/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Ringsup to \$500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charmsup to \$300	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watches up to \$1,750	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Cuff Links up to \$300
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Casesup to \$750	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold School Ringsup to \$500	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Ringsup to \$800	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watchesup to \$750	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000
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AMP donates beauty care items to Aging Center

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The staff of American Memorial Park recently made a donation of assorted beauty items to the senior citizens at the Aging Center.

Park rangers Nancy Kelchner and Susan Fishman-Tudor handed the donated items consisting of face and body care products to Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Teresita Sorroza on Monday at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Kelchner told *Saipan Tribune* that their staff tried to think of something they can do for the *man'amko* and one of them came up with the idea of clearing out their closets for products they're not using.

"We found out that we have a lot of products that we brought here from the mainland that we can actually share to the



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Park Ranger Susan Fishman-Tudor hands a bag full of assorted beauty care items to Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president Teresita Sorroza at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center on Monday.

man'amko," she explained.

These products include face creams, facial cleansers, bubble baths, perfumes, and scented lotions, said Kelchner.

"The *man'amko* has been very kind to us. We just have a real good relationship with them ever since 'The Enchantress' so we figured we should give them something," added Kelchner.

Produced and directed by program coordinator Walter Manglona, "The Enchantress" movie featured several *man'amko* as part of the cast and was shown at the American Memorial Park in 2009.

Sorroza expressed her appreciation to the staff of American Memorial Park for their donation on behalf of the council and the rest of the *man'amko*.

She said the donated items would be used as prizes for games and contests they would hold for the seniors at the Aging Center.

9 schools sign up for Parade of Books

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine schools have so far signed up for this year's Parade of Books organized by the Saipan Rotary Club.

Parade of Books, Rotary's annual literacy program, fea-

tures schools from all over the CNMI competing for cash prizes by interpreting their favorite book though a creative performance.

The 7th Annual Parade of Books is scheduled on March 26 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Vocational services director Jeff Boyer said this year's Parade of Books will be very exciting as "competition keeps getting better and better."

"We'd like to see more private schools to join the Parade of Books," Boyer noted.

Boyer said a \$1,000 cash

prize is at stake for the school with the most creative interpretation of their favorite book.

"We hope that through this competition, students will realize the importance of reading," he added.

Other sponsors for this year's Parade of Books are Delta Air Lines, Pacific Islands Club, and the Kishiwada North Rotary Club.

USCG Guam continues training for emergencies

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam has an expansive search and rescue area of responsibility with Coast Guard air assets more than a day away to assist in emergencies if needed.

Sector Guam has established several close relationships with U.S. Department of Defense agencies to assist with the missions on island.

U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, the only military helicopter asset available on Guam, works closely with the Coast Guard to accomplish the search and rescue mission.

On Feb. 9, 2011, Coast Guard Cutter *Washington* and HSC-25 helicopter conducted joint operations to exercise this partnership. Training operations with the cutter allows aircrews from HSC-25 helicopter to gain valuable familiarization with Coast Guard assets in Guam.

The HSC-25 helicopter often will respond to most search and rescue cases. U.S. Navy helicopters practice approaches and hoists which simulate transferring survivors to and from the deck of the Coast Guard cutter.

Given the relatively small size of the deck of a 110' cutter, practicing these maneuvers is crucial in ensuring safety during actual operations. (USCG)



U.S. COAST GUARD LT. J.G. JUSTIN VALENTINO.

Petty Officer 1st Class Allen Wilkinson, the coxswain of Coast Guard Cutter *Washington*, operates the small boat during search and rescue and helicopter operations training with an SH-60B helicopter from Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 in Agat Bay, Guam Feb. 9, 2011. Coast Guard Sector Guam relies upon its Department of Defense partnerships to support the search and rescue mission in an area of responsibility that mirrors the size of the continental United States.

G4S EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Security officer Charlie Tobia, second from the right, is G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc.'s employee of the month for January 2011. Tobia is assigned at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. He is shown here after being presented with his certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan, operation director Kathy Casil, and Safety Security manager Mafi Islam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 16, 1999

CPA falls short in revenue target

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has failed to generate the needed revenue last month to meet debt service coverage for its \$53 million debt as income from operations continue to nosedive. As of Jan. 31, 1999, the cash-strapped ports authority is short of \$153,736 in servicing the airport bond. Likewise, it needs \$27,705 to meet debt service requirement for the seaport bond for the same period. With its sinking funds, the ports authority has planned to raise airport fees to be able to repay its \$53 million debt. However, the proposal has been strongly criticized by various sectors in the community claiming that the timing is wrong.

PSS prepares budget proposals

The Public School System is preparing three budget reports for the next fiscal year that will reconcile academic aspirations with the present financial status. According to acting Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson, the first report is what others will consider as "ambitious". It takes into account Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's request for a strategic plan from each government agency. School principals were asked to develop strategic plans based on their respective accreditation requirement. Almost all public schools are preparing for the accreditation visit this year. Such plans will need sufficient funding support from the government.

Feb. 16, 2000

NMIRF eyes record \$56M budget for FY 2001

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund board is reviewing a proposed budget of \$56 million for its operations in Fiscal Year 2001, the biggest spending plan in the agency's history. According to NMIRF Board Chair Vicente Camacho, the biggest chunk of the budget, or 87.8 percent, will be used to pay monthly pension of its members. Some \$2.1 million has been set aside for the construction of Retirement Fund buildings in Rota and Tinian but implementation of such plan depends on the settlement of the CNMI government's unpaid contribution now amounting to \$30 million.

Teno vetoes propose conservation area

Saying he was disappointed to disapprove a measure to designate Managaha Island and its surrounding water as a Marine Conservation Act (HB 11-500), Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Monday two issues must first be resolved before he can sign the bill into law. The first one was the section about the Superintendent's duties and responsibilities that raise separation of power issues. That section gives the Superintendent the power to oversee the operations, maintenance, and administration of the conservation area. He is also authorized to hire, terminate and provide for training of Conservation Officers. The bill placed the Superintendent within the Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The second concern of the governor is with respect to reassigning of funds under Public Law 11-64 regarding the landing fees for Managaha Islands from a number of public service programs to Managaha research items.

Feb. 16, 2001

DPH preparing for regular visit to man'amko centers

The Department of Public Health is now looking into the immediate implementation of the proposed on-site visit to *man'amko* centers in the Northern Marianas to regularly check health and ailments of aging citizens. In an interview with reporters yesterday, Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez disclosed programs are currently being mapped out following the same proposal recently made by Rep. William S. Torres, who urged DPH to hold routine check up for the elders of Aging Centers. The routine check up would help in the monitoring of the senior citizens' state of health and pave the road for early detection of possible health risks.

ATM for garment workers installed

Garment workers can now fulfill their banking transactions without leaving the comfort and safety of their own factory. Tan Holdings Corporation and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation have joined hands in the installation of an Automated Teller Machine inside the premises of the company's garment manufacturing plant in Lower Base. The new ATM facility, which was inaugurated yesterday, comes as an added benefit to employees of THC whose salary payments are now being made through the direct deposit program.



WIC employees complete communication training

The Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute (CDI), a program under the division of Community Programs and Services (COMPASS), recently recognized staff members and managers of the Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program who completed professional development training on "Communication in the Workplace".

The 18 individuals who completed the training are Thelma Ada, Imelda Benavente, Carmen Cabrera, Erin Angela Camacho, Frankie Castro, Thomas Castro, Julie Mae Cruz, Giovannie Gomez, Hermis Jim, Estella Kaipat, Barbara Pangelinan, Ponce Rasa, Pauline Ro-



Staff members of the WIC Program pose with CDI program manager Floyd Masga, top left. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ligat, Roma Nei Romolar, Leila Jo Rosario, Luisa Le Santos, Irene Sigrah, and Fabian Ulloa.

The objective of the course was to ensure that the participants are able to define communication and distinguish between effective and ineffective communication techniques as well as cite common barriers to effective communication. In addition, the participants of the course learned how to apply listening skills, identify body language, and discuss the importance of good attitude in the communication process.

This training helped the staff members of the WIC program improve their communication skills in order to better serve the

people they work with.

The Community Development Institute provides a variety of programs accessible and affordable to the general public, ranging from specialized academic courses and non-traditional courses to customized training such as "computer literacy." CDI also offers various courses that are geared toward personal enrichment and outreach.

For more information about these programs, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext 1010 or send an email to CDI program manager Les Ogumoro-Uludong at logumoro@nmcnet.edu. You may also log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KHS sets Senior Night with Parent Literacy

Kagman High School will be hosting its Senior Night with Parent Literacy on Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, from 5pm to 7pm. It's mandatory for all seniors and a parent or guardian to be present.

The agenda will include graduation status, portfolio requirement, and information on life after high school. Refreshments will be served!

For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840/67 for counselor Emily Camacho. (PR)

Invitation to CCA general membership meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, and all members of the community, are invited to the CCA's general membership meeting today, Feb. 16, at the Department of Public Health, Secretary's Conference Room at 5:30pm.

The agenda will include annual reports of the president, treasurer, and program manager, as well as election of four board members.

Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information, contact CCA program manager Tina Sablan at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

SSHS PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School will hold its PTSA meeting today, Feb. 16, from 6pm to 7pm in the Manta Café. (PR)

SHEFA board meeting postponed

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board has rescheduled its Feb. 15 regular board meeting to tomorrow, Feb. 17, at 9am, in the Mayor of Saipan conference room, ground floor in the Afetnas Square, Afetna, Saipan. (PR)

Military training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 14-16, from 7:30am-7:30pm

■ Feb. 17, from 8am-7:30pm

■ Feb. 18, from 7am-7:30pm

■ Feb. 21-25, from 9am-7:30pm

The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 15, from 11:45am-5:30pm

■ Feb. 16, from 11:45am-4:30pm

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The W-517 training will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

Free workshop on tropical energy code

The Division of Energy Office will be hosting the CNMI Tropical Energy Code Workshop on Feb. 17, 2011, from 9am to 4pm

at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, free of charge.

The workshop will be providing contractors, engineers, architects, and stakeholders guidance relative to compliance and enforcement of the Tropical Energy Code relating to residential and commercial buildings. To reserve seats, contact the Division of Energy Office at 664-4480/1 to RSVP no later than 4:30pm today, Feb. 15, 2011.

For questions or more information regarding this workshop, contact the Division of Energy Office at 664-4480/1. (Office of the Governor)

Art of Marriage Conference reset to Feb. 18-19

Is your marriage on the rocks or do you have a great marriage? Either way you are invited to attend The Art of Marriage Conference at Saipan Community Church on Feb. 18-19. The cost \$35 per couple for the materials. Pre-married couples may also attend. Contact Jill or Solomon at 483-7245 or e-mail only1jill@yahoo.com. For more informa-

tion you may visit www.familylife.com/heartofmarriage. (PR)

DPW: Expect delays, hassle as Isa Drive roadwork continues

The Department of Public Works says the public should expect some level of inconveniences and delays as it works on federally funded road improvement projects along Route 31, also known as Isa Drive.

The project consists of three phases. Phase 1, under Hawaiian Rock Product, funded by the Federal Highway Aid, begins from San Vicente/ Dandan and ends near the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. super tank in Papago. It is expected to be completed by mid-November 2011.

Phase II-A under GPPC, Inc. is funded by both FHWA and AARA transitions from the end phase I and ends after the Mobil gas station near the Kagman road intersection and is expected to be completed by the later part of 2011.

Phase II-B, which transitions from the end of phase II-A and ends near Esco's bakery/ Tala-

fofo road will be starting before the end of 2011.

DPW said the department is working to better serve the transportation needs of the CNMI and apologizes for any inconveniences and delays this may cause the public. For more information, contact 235-9570 or 5827. (PR)

Managaha beaches get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality has assigned all beaches on Managaha Island a green flag.

This after water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock came back negative of containing excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards.

DEQ analyzes a total of 11 samples from Managaha this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. (DEQ)

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/5 Sat	2/3 Thu	2/3 Thu	2/1 Tue	1/29 Sat	2/11 Fri	2/7 Mon	2/6 Sun	1/30 Sun	1/30 Sun	2/7 Mon	2/11 Fri	2/13 Sun	2/15 Tue
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/12 Sat	2/10 Thu	2/10 Thu	2/8 Tue	2/5 Sat	2/18 Fri	2/14 Mon	2/13 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/14 Mon	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	2/22 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	051E	2/19 Sat	2/17 Thu	2/17 Thu	2/15 Tue	2/12 Sat	2/25 Fri	2/21 Mon	2/20 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/21 Mon	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	3/1 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	2/26 Sat	2/24 Thu	2/24 Thu	2/22 Tue	2/19 Sat	3/4 Fri	2/28 Mon	2/27 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/28 Mon	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue
MELL SILOSO	018E	3/5 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/3 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/26 Sat	3/11 Fri	3/7 Mon	3/6 Sun	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	3/7 Mon	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	3/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/12 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/10 Thu	3/8 Tue	3/5 Sat	3/18 Fri	3/14 Mon	3/13 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/14 Mon	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SPRINGLEAF	016E	2/19 Sat	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/22 Tue	2/23 Wed	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/4 Fri	3/5 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/29 Tue	3/13 Sun
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/26 Sat	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/2 Wed	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	SKIP	3/11 Fri	3/12 Sat	3/17 Thu	4/5 Tue	3/20 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	051E	3/5 Sat	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue	3/9 Wed	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/18 Fri	3/19 Sat	3/24 Thu	4/12 Tue	3/27 Sun
MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	3/12 Sat	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/16 Wed	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	SKIP	3/25 Fri	3/26 Sat	3/31 Thu	4/19 Tue	4/3 Sun
MELL SILOSO	018E	3/19 Sat	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue	3/23 Wed	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	SKIP	4/1 Fri	4/2 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/26 Tue	4/10 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/26 Sat	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	SKIP	3/30 Wed	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/8 Fri	4/9 Sat	4/14 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/17 Sun

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Cuba is no Egypt

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Somewhere in Havana, Fidel Castro is probably laughing out loud to see Hosni Mubarak lose his grip on power after 30 years of undisputed leadership. In Castro's eyes, no doubt, the octogenarian Mr. Mubarak brought a world of trouble on himself by trying to mollify Western critics through the creation of a phony democracy that would give his regime a veneer of respectability.

Mr. Mubarak was never a softie. Egypt's intelligence service, the Mukhabarat, is justly feared throughout the Middle East for its inhumane treatment of anyone perceived as an enemy of the state, well documented in a 95-page report issued recently by Human Rights Watch on its use of torture and repression.

But the flip side of this officially sanctioned terror was the attempt to create a kind of fictional democracy to give the state the appearance of legitimacy. Thus, Egypt's citizens had access to the Internet. Opposition (closely watched and within strict limits) was allowed in the media. The anti-regime Muslim Brotherhood was officially banned, but its underground survival tolerated. Rival political parties exist, at least on paper. Until now, foreign reporters have operated freely and with little fear of harassment. Uncensored TV news from sources like al-Jazeera was widely seen.

In Mr. Mubarak's Egypt, the illusion of freedom was allowed to flourish. When the upheaval came, the mirage vanished. Internet access was cut off, al-Jazeera banned, foreign reporters detained and in some cases beaten by mobs, opposition silenced, the regime's thugs given free rein.

Cuba is a different place.

In Cuba, none of the trappings of democracy have existed for half a century. It is not part of the Castro playbook to permit any activity that would nurture the popular aspiration for liberty.

Access to the Internet for everyone—are you kidding? There is no opposition press, real or make-believe, no opposition parties, foreign reporters are closely monitored and the average citizen has practically no access to independent sources of information. Egypt's business class is reported to be in anguish over the turmoil because it's hurting the economy. In Cuba, there is no business class—the military runs the economy. Nor is there any civil society to speak of.

In Cuba, moreover, the military is an unconditional appendage of the Castro regime. In Egypt, the armed forces are an institution apart. Officers must support the regime, but the institution's ultimate loyalty is tied to the state and to the military's own traditions and customs, not to the political fortunes of one individual.

In Cuba, it's all about loyalty to Fidel and Raul. Officers are closely scrutinized for signs of disloyalty (and publicly disgraced, even executed, if they fall under a cloud of suspicion).

Fidel Castro has no use for the trappings of democracy because he has no interest in democracy. His is a zipped-up, no-nonsense totalitarian regime, designed to perpetuate one-man rule, brooking no opposition and making no concessions to foreign or domestic critics.

In the place of normal civic organizations, there are the notorious Committees for the Defense of the Revolution—neighbors spying on neighbors. Principled and outspoken critics of the regime are thrown in prison and left to rot. Dissidents honored by foreign human rights groups are rarely allowed to go abroad to accept their honors.

Fidel and Raul Castro have had 50 years to hone the apparatus

See CUBA on Next Page



Egyptians must handle revolution carefully

A s Cairo erupted in jubilation on Friday over the announcement that Hosni Mubarak had stepped down, I remembered another celebration of revolution I witnessed in 1979.

I was visiting some Syrian leftists in a rickety wooden house in the heart of the old city of Damascus as they gathered around a crackly short-wave radio set and broke out the whiskey. They were celebrating the return of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to Tehran that very day; they believed this marked the start of a revolution that would end with leftists taking over the Iranian government. Many young Iranian idealists thought the same.

Of course, things developed very differently.

The charismatic Khomeini and the well-organized Shiite clergy wiped out the overconfident Iranian left and created a theocracy. I raise this example not because I think Egypt will become another Iran, but as a caution: Revolutions often wind up producing results far different from the hopes of the rebels who make them.

If the incredible young Egyptians who conducted a nonviolent revolution with Facebook and Twitter can recognize this danger, they will be better prepared to keep their revolution on track.

These young people deserve our deepest admiration. Anyone who knows Egypt understands the deep and justified emotions that drove them. They toppled a corrupt and sclerotic regime that had proved incapable of reforming its economy or giving its people any say in their future.

Moreover, this was most definitely not an Islamic uprising. Egypt's best organized Islamist movement, the Muslim Brotherhood, was not involved in organizing the demonstrations and joined the rebellion late in the day.

Most interesting, a new poll commissioned by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and conducted in Cairo and Alexandria, found that just 15 percent of those polled approved of the Brotherhood. Its leaders got barely 1 percent of the vote in a presidential straw poll.

Asked to pick national priorities, only 12 percent chose sharia (Islamic law) over democracy and economic development. When asked why the uprising had happened, corruption, unemployment, and economic conditions each polled 30 percent; only 7 percent cited the concern that the regime was "not Islamic enough."

That's the good news. But the hardest part of this revolution is yet to come.

In the still-fluid Egyptian situation, the army has basically taken over. There's no history of Mideast military regimes turning over to democrats, and we don't know whether these generals will let political reforms proceed.

If they do, however, the talented professionals and young executives who rallied the crowds must now confront a far greater organizing challenge: how to develop political parties that can deliver the reforms that Egyptians want.

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



The obstacles are huge:

First, Middle Eastern regimes, Egypt included, have never permitted independent political parties to flourish. The parties that developed in years past were mostly based on tribe or sect or discredited ideologies such as Arab socialism or communism. More independent Egyptian parties have long since withered or been smothered. The current parliament is made up almost entirely of the ruling party, which had exclusive access to the government trough.

The opposition must now figure out how to organize itself, and to produce new, competent, and talented leaders. That's assuming, of course, that the army officer class, which benefited mightily from Mubarak's economic cookie jar, permits those leaders to emerge.

Second, the revolutionaries must now contend with a wave of inflated expectations. Having watched the revolution unfold, Egyptian workers and youths will want to see results — faster than they can be delivered. Their attitudes may sour if they don't see the goods.

And third, there is the Muslim Brotherhood, currently banned as a political party, but likely to take part in any democratic process. Although its popularity is limited, and the army will watch it closely, the Brotherhood has one big advantage: it already has a well-oiled organizing mechanism through the mosque. It has no charismatic leaders and could never win a majority of seats in parliament, but it could win a solid bloc. This could provide substantial clout if other opposition parties fragment and quarrel with each other.

So the challenge to the brilliant young team who organized this revolt is to apply their talents to the second phase: organizing the political structure to carry out the reforms they demanded.

Although the odds are steep, this is not impossible, especially if they convince the Egyptian public that, unlike the Mubarak regime, they care about the dignity of ordinary people.

After a few fumbles, the Obama team has a chance to regain the good graces of Egypt's young rebels. It should do more than press the army to permit voting; it should offer technical aid to help develop the parties and institutions that make elections work.

The leftists I visited in Damascus were lost in unrealistic dreams, as were their compatriots in Tehran. But Egypt's young rebels can make more history (and the West can help) if they keep their feet on the ground.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Wildebeest Effect

Most of us suffer from the superficial understanding of self-governance and the fundamentals of economics. And although we have an understanding of democracy, we seem less agile in understanding the object and workings of representative government and the free market concept upon which it is based.

Now, the latter makes attaining reform a protracted process. We can't simply change it overnight. This is because it isn't a structure to dismantle quickly, but a process that involves participatory roles of citizens. Indeed, it is a gradual process that often takes years before the desired goal is attained.

Initially, we're disorganized on matters of importance. It makes our individual journey easily preyed upon by politicians. We have an inkling of what's at issue though less sure on matters that are a bit too hard to understand. So we retreat and ponder upon the issue before us.

But when an issue adversely affects a good majority of the populous, it is sufficient an issue to trigger quick organization including a plan of action. This simple decision forces the rest of the people around us to fall in line and march behind a legitimate cause.

This is known as the "wildebeest effect" as explained by Mr. Thomas N. Tripp, an author of the book on first principles. It's all about the behavior of the electorate as they deal with issues and the simplest turn that it takes to trigger stamping and stomping.

"The wildebeest is a large grazing animal that dominates the Serengeti Plain in eastern Africa. They are counted in the millions and roam in herds large enough to stretch beyond the horizon. But the wildebeest is fodder for the lion that hunts these massive beasts without fear of opposition or even confrontation.

"The reason the victims are such easy prey, of course, is their inability to organize or communicate. They are picked off one by one as they ineffectually run from the predations of their adversary. But, with the simplest turn of the smallest portion of the herd, and the stomping and stamping of the easily surrounded lion, the wildebeeste could almost effortlessly control their own destiny.

"The modern democratic electorate can be seen as the wildebeeste—literate of course, but wildebeeste nonetheless. We are cowed by the theoretical insignificance of the individual, comforted by the security of the herd, and ignorant of our own power. We should not be: the system under which we operate is designed to take advantage of exactly that power by using the knowledge at each elector's fingertips".

The wildebeest effect or vicious uprising of sort is occurring right now in places like Egypt, Iran, Tunisia, Algeria, and adjacent Arab

countries. The people can no longer tolerate dictatorships that steal billions of dollars from the public coffers and stashing it away in accounts under their names. Not when the promise of brighter days are relegated into unbearable hardship of families across the land. Imagine billions of dollars that came in the form of foreign aid being funneled into the savings accounts of dictators. This is completely unconscionable and a crime against humanity.

Now, would the wildebeest effect or revolt ever occur in these

The wildebeest effect or vicious uprising of sort is occurring right now in places like Egypt, Iran, Tunisia, Algeria, and adjacent Arab countries. The people can no longer tolerate dictatorships that steal billions of dollars from the public coffers and stashing it away in accounts under their names. Not when the promise of brighter days are relegated into unbearable hardship of families across the land. Imagine billions of dollars that came in the form of foreign aid being funneled into the savings accounts of dictators. This is completely unconscionable and a crime against humanity.

isles? What would compel it to take off? Take a step back and watch what's unfolding here: What we're seeing is the calm before the storm. But as the NMI becomes a wasteland of unemployment, the electorate would organize and begin the long march toward Capital Hill to stomp and stamp answers from their representatives in government. It only needs a single spark and turn to trigger the wildebeest effect. This would be a very sad day in paradise.

mies of India and China to locate sources outside of their sovereign boundaries. Texas still flourishes for having been at the basement level of the game. The scramble for oil continues even as we now haggle over the future of water.

By insuring cheap oil supply worldwide, and using it to power production in countries from whom we buy the finished product at a cheaper price than what it would cost us if we produced it ourselves (just walk into Joeten and see the labels of all the products sold), one begins to understand that our national economic base is more on the services we provide other nations, and the products we license in the name of national security and defense (armaments, etc.) Since we determine virtually the cost of many of these services and military arsenal, we create phantom values from which we base the rate of our currency compared to that of other economies.

We've been living off the back of others' labors.

This preeminent position in global economics shaken terrifies this nation's foundations, and the toppling of figureheads like Ben Ali and Mubarak is only a symptom of the radical transformation in progress. The assertive players right now in the economic game are India and China. The fact that Obama is just coming around the upgrading of the nations rail system magnifies the reality that in some sectors, we are playing catch-up rather than leading the pack. We now rent space from the Russians to participate in space lab experiments, and right now, China is preparing to explore the moon!

The Interpol has Ben Ali as their newest poster boy, but his family remains in Saudi Arabia still enjoying the same luxuriant lifestyle that characterized his rule. Mubarak reportedly is 6 billion British Pounds heavy with suspected assets reportedly frozen in Swiss banks since his resignation, but the political future of his younger son Gamal who was groomed to replace the elder is currently under question, although if Baby Doc can return to Haiti, and Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. can become a senator of the Republic of the Philippines, it might just be a matter of time before young Mubarak returns to the political limelight. He is reportedly worth 10 billion BPs while older brother Alaa, a quiet

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



■ ■ ■ ■ ■
This is the 11th hour and there's hardly any room to rebuild wealth and jobs creation to the level we once knew. The rush would result in pile-ups of mistakes beyond our wildest imaginings. As mistakes increase and hardship intensifies from the impending reduction in force, all hell is likely to break loose in the shifting sands of these isles. But then leadership can't blame anyone else for sleeping on the job.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The bad karma would pile up into mountains of terror-like nightmare for big empty-headed bosses boasting, "Excuse me, I have to go to terminate some more people." I've heard this adolescent statement so designed to impress those who heard it that this is "power at its best." Is it? So you spread your wings ignoring that the statement isn't what you people promised like "better times?"

The destruction of lives premised on dismissive arrogance or political vengeance isn't an issue to boast about. The alternative would have been better, i.e., seeking serious placement of displaced employees in private industries. But this hasn't been the norm. It's a sink or swim attitude from arrogant political appointees.

If you're an enemy, real or perceived, you're the first one on its termination list. And employees adversely affected know this by heart for they have seen raw arrogance dished against them as they ponder their future. "What goes around comes around" and your day will come as you deal with more than your share of bad karma. Your arrogance will definitely follow you to your grave.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Buddy Magoo was quick giving his fatherly admonition about the financial disaster at home: "Like a skid in the snow, do you slam the brakes or step on the gas pedal?" I quickly took the first option.

Said he, "No, slamming the brakes sends you skidding even further, but stepping on the gas pedal could pull you out of the skid". Well, whichever one we take it remains a skid Deep South.

Mubarak of Egypt

President Ben Ali of Tunisia ruled for 23 years until a few days ago when a popular uprising toppled the regime. That inspired the Egyptians to confront Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule, and this week, the president who was a symbol of Egyptian stability for a while, resigned from his office and retreated to his resort villa while the military scraped the dreaded emergency rules and announced that it will oversea a smooth transition through a free and fair open election.

The United States has been an apologists for all kinds of centrally ruled strong arm civilian and military dictatorships in my memory, from nationalist Chinese Chiang Kai-shek to Hosni Mubarak, and many statesmen gone rogue in between, including Ferdinand Marcos in the land where I was born.

I grew up faster than the evolution of the U.S. State Department into supporting a fair, open, and transparent government. Indeed, Obama was seen as vacillating in his stance toward the sudden Egyptian crisis, with the media foisting all kinds of fearful scenarios like the unreliability of the Suez Canal remaining open, doubtful access to North African oil, gyrating commodity prices from the unstable governments of Tunisia, Egypt, Oman, and Yemen, and Egypt's impact on the rest of North Africa and the Middle East, particularly Israel.

Consideration for the housewives who brought their children to Tahrir Central Square was more a nuisance rather than the reality of Peoples' Power coming into its own, the real core of the crisis, as it is now emerging that the trigger was a Facebook blog on the Tunisian rapid transformation. The specter of a resurgent Muslim Brotherhood replacing Hosni was thickly ladled with fear.

Radical honesty is hardly practiced in our daily lives, let alone in our foreign policy, so the veils of illusions many layers over prevails in the Middle East and Egypt. Our primary consideration is the oil of the region fought over in both World Wars. With the patina of political rhetoric on love of freedom and the defense of the democracies, we dare not forget historical realities. It was the oil embargo of Japan that drove Imperial Nippon to the brink of national schizophrenia, and it is oil that is powering the newly strengthened econo-

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



businessman, is worth half as much.

The lesson is not lost to revolutionary forces elsewhere—officials and figureheads do not make radical changes. Top-down revolution is an oxymoron. Widespread movements of the *masa* from the bottom up initiates (and suffers) the consequences of change. Royals and despots elsewhere are bracing themselves from Egypt's political aftershocks.

Isn't it funny that the dreaded fear of communist domino reflex in Southeast Asia is occurring on honest democratic spontaneity rather than contrived cadre intentionality? Systemic honesty with accountability structures might take some doing but that might just be what it takes to build a brave new world.

CUBA

From Page 10






of Cuba's paranoid tyranny. Crushing dissent has been their principal preoccupation.

If the streets of Havana do not burst forth with protest, it is not because Cuba's people are any less thirsty for liberty than the people in Cairo. But, unlike Hosni Mubarak—and Sadat and Nasser before that—the Castro brothers have foreclosed every avenue of rebellion and taken every conceivable step to stifle the longing for freedom. Like the Sun King, Louis XIV, Fidel Castro has been able to proudly proclaim that he is the state.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts up to 25 mph in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲84 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼76
Kosrae	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼75

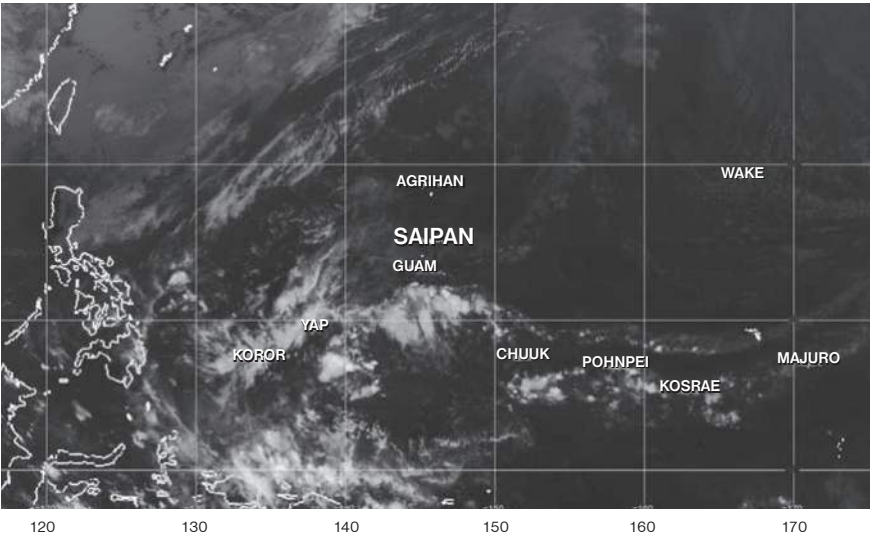
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲73 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼23
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲68 ▼59
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲79 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼41
Los Angeles	Rain	▲59 ▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲75 ▼64
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78 ▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼35
Osaka	Showers	▲54 ▼37
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49 ▼37
Pusan	Showers	▲46 ▼35
Rome	Rain	▲54 ▼47
Salem	Showers	▲46 ▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲55 ▼43
Seoul	Snow	▲38 ▼27
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼39

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
7:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:18 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N136E to beyond 21N130E with cloudiness and scattered showers along and up to 300 miles northwest of the front. Low pressure is near 23N153E with scattered showers in an area from around the low northward beyond 25N. A cold front associated with the low extends southwestward from 23N156E to 14N152E then continues westward as a shear line across the Mariana Islands to 13N143E. Scattered showers are along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line and northwest of the cold front. A long winding shear line extends southwestward from 14N180 to near Kwajalein at 8N168E then westward to 8N155E then northwestward to 11N146E then southwestward to 8N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are southeast of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 6N140E to 8N140E and south of Guam within 125 miles of a line from 10N142E to 10N151E otherwise. Scattered showers were along and up to 100 miles north of the shear line east of 151E. Low level convergence was causing a few other showers across eastern Micronesia from south of Chuuk across Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:13 PM	4:28 AM
Thursday	5:15 PM	5:19 AM
Friday	6:16 PM	6:09 AM
Saturday	7:17 PM	6:56 AM
Sunday	8:18 PM	7:42 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

PRE-VALENTINE'S EVENT

JC Café debuts 'Showtime' last Feb. 11

As a pre-Valentine's Day offering, JC Café on Tinian held its very first monthly "Showtime" competition last Friday, Feb. 11.

Marilyn Papio who sang "The Power of Love" won the first place, Erwin Carlaje took home runner-up honors with his rendition of "Paano ang Puso Ko," and Jaylo won third place with an impressive on-the-spot sketch of a lady model.

Judges for the contest were Elvira Morgan of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Julian Hofschneider of Tinian High School, and Joey Lenteja of Tinian Health Center.

Judges were also asked to showcase their talents on stage, which mimicked the Philippine hit show's "sampil" segment.

The evening began with no less than JC Café's staff performing the hit ABS-CBN show's *Magpasikat* dance number.

Various prizes like stuff toys, gift certificates, grocery items, and personal accessories were also given away all those who joined the talent show-down's "Sampil Mo, Premyo Mo!" where everyone had a chance to display their talents.

The stage was also full during disco intermission of nonstop music like trance, hip-hop, techno, cha-cha, reggae, Palauan R&B, Electric Slide,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's Aida Juma-oas was the evening's "Face of the Night."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marilyn Papio won first place in JC Café's first monthly "Showtime" competition last Friday after singing "The Power of Love."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

3K's Market owners Julio and Estenza Mojica were adjudged JC Café's Valentine's Couple of the Year.

New Wave, and Pinoy beat.

JC Café also held its traditional Valentine's Couple of the Year, where 3K's Market owners Julio and Estenza Mojica won. Fresh roses were also given to all the lovely couples in attendance.

A search was also made for the "Face of the Night" which was awarded to Aida Juma-oas of Tinian Dynasty.

Surprise gifts were also taped under JC Café's tables, adding to the celebratory

mood of the evening.

JC Café is also soliciting comments on the first "Showtime" event's food and services. Text JC Café at 286-8382 and win a phone card.

"Showtime" at JC Café is held monthly on the following dates—March 12, April 9, May 7, and June 4. The grand finals will be held on July 9, 2011.

First place gets \$100; second, \$75; and third, \$50. Prizes for the grand finals, meanwhile, are \$250 for first place, \$100 for sec-

ond, and \$50 for third.

JC Café manager Marie Rose G. Bunao wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the following sponsors: Pacific Amusement, Pacific Quick Print, Triple J Saipan, Truong's Restaurant, H-Mart, Dolphin's Wholesale, Taro Sue, Island Florals & Gifts, Gizelle Salon, Crystal Clear-Tinian, Huang Shun Corp., Lucky Qiang, Johnson's Air-conditioning, M/M Bill Cing, Sallyfin Catangay, Vannesa Talavera, and Leny Marcelo. (PR)

Rota school holds Valentine's ball

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja held its first Valentine's Night Ball last Feb. 11 at the Rota Round House.

The students of the school entertained parents, guardians, and guests with song and dance numbers.

In addition to presentations, a Valentine's Prince and Muse were crowned. Preschool student John Anthony Tobongbanua was crowned Valentine's prince and second grade student Viara Luran Ogo was crowned Valentine's Muse.

Analyn Tobongbanua is the proud mother of John Anthony and Thomas

and Laura I. Manglona are the proud grandparents of Ogo.

Other activities included "Beat Your Heart Pair." The winning pair was John Anthony Tobongbanua and third grade student Marjorie Banaag.

The evening's Best Dressed for male and female participants were also recognized. The winner for the Best Dressed Male student went to preschool student Edgar Aaron Tuazon and Best Dressed Female student went Loreville Clitar, a fifth grade student.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja PTA officers, led by president Francine Manibusan, also held a dinner fundraiser that night. The fundraising event was part of the association's efforts to help the school.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administration, faculty, and students would like to extend their appreciation to all the hard-working parents/guardians, donors, benefactors, the school's board of directors, PTA, Rev. Fr. Delfin Tumaca, FdCC, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, and Mrs. Estrella Mendiola, and Rota Channel 5 for making the event a success. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja 2011 Valentine's Ball Prince John Anthony Tobongbanua, left, poses with 2011 Valentine's Muse Viara Luran Ogo.

Agencies join forces to strengthen literacy in American Samoa

By PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS ANGELA HENDERSON

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—Students of all ages from South Pacific Academy in Pago Pago, American Samoa received 16 computers and more than 3,500 books from the Coast Guard and Rotary Club of Kapolei last week as part of a combined effort to improve access to educational materials on the island.

A Coast Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft crew from Air Station Barbers Point flew more than 2,500 miles to deliver the donated materials. Upon arrival the Hercules was met by Gov. Togiola Tulafono who greeted and thanked the aircrew as they came out of the plane.

"When we opened the back of the C-130 everyone's first words were 'Wow, so many books!'" said Ken Gillespie, a pilot from Air Station Barbers Point. "Humanitarian efforts are one of my favorite missions that we do. It lets us work with many other agencies and give back to the community."

The donations come just two years after American Samoa was hit with an earthquake and tsunami Sept. 30, 2009, which swept into the capital Pago Pago and wiped out many villages. In response to the disaster, Principal Evelyn Lili'o-Satele, of South Pacific Academy was asked if the collection of books in Honolulu would be a morale booster in the wake of the destruction.

"It actually started out as a small community project," Lili'o-Satele explained, "but now it has turned out to be a huge gift for the community."

She noted that the level of success in coordinating the collection of books was due to the efforts of Danny Pa'u, a representative with Starkist-Samoa Co. and Dan Fullenwider, a member with Rotary Club of Kapolei, Hawaii.

Members from the Rotary Club of Kapolei collected more than 7,000 books for the children in Pago Pago. The Coast Guard also donated 16 computers to the school.

"When I first got to American Samoa the members of the rotary club here welcomed me into the club and the community," said Lt. Trevor Parra, supervisor of Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa. "One day I got a call from Fullenwider from Honolulu, wanting to know if I would be able to get a C-130 to come down here with books."

Parra put forth the request. One thing led to another and not only was a Hercules made available, more books were collected than could be carried in one trip, requiring a future Hercules flight to American Samoa to deliver the remainder. In total, the Hercules aircrew flew more than 2,500 miles from Barbers Point, Hawaii to Pago Pago, American Samoa and will soon be flying another 2,500 miles to deliver the rest of the books.

"The books will also be sent to Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Hospital in Tafuna and to the Hope Recovery House on a revolving loan/share basis because both these institutions showed a very strong interest in stocking their libraries also," said Lili'o-Satele. "Since the tsunami this has all evolved out of the power of parents and the community, here and in Honolulu," she added. "Every time I received an e-mail from Fullenwider, he would inform me of one more pallet of books that had been donated."

The joint effort began in July 2010 between numerous organizations and agencies. Since Sept. 30, 2009, American Samoa has been working hard to rebuild their community and villages.

"We did a lot of good and made a lot of people very, very happy, said Fullenwider. "There is no telling how many lives will be affected in the future from this project spearheaded by Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and the Rotary Club of Kapolei." "We all can take a lot of pride in knowing that we just pulled off what will probably turn out to be the biggest Rotary International Literacy Project conducted world-wide this year."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 45th birthday to John M. Pialur. Many more birthdays to come and God bless you. Greeting from your wife and kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Business

Obama budget: Some cuts, not the slashes GOP asks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Putting on the brakes after two years of big spending increases, President Barack Obama unveiled a \$3.7 trillion budget plan Monday that would freeze or reduce some safety-net programs for the nation's poor but turn aside Republican demands for more drastic cuts to shrink the government to where it was before he took office.

The 10-year blueprint makes "tough choices and sacrifices," Obama said in his official budget message. Yet the plan, which sets the stage for this week's nasty congressional fight over cuts in the budget year that's already more than one-third over, steers clear of deeply controversial long-term problem areas such as Social Security and Medicare.

The budget relies heavily on the recovering economy, tax increases and rosy economic assumptions to estimate that the federal deficit would drop from this year's record \$1.6 trillion—an astronomical figure that requires the government to borrow 43 cents out of every dollar it spends—to about \$600 billion after five years.

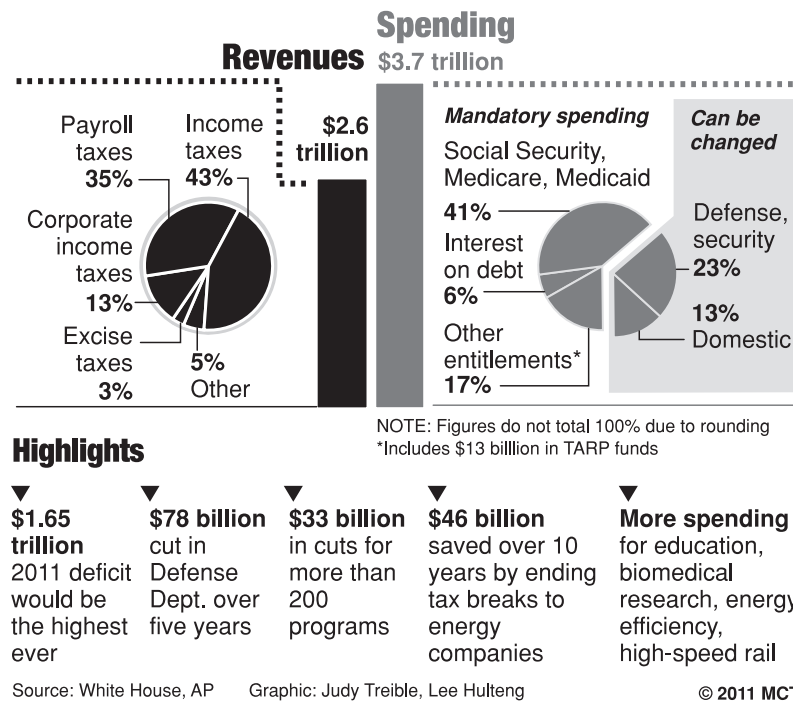
Obama foresees a deficit of \$1.1 trillion for the new budget year, which begins Oct. 1, still very high by historical benchmarks but moving in the right direction.

The president claims \$1.1 trillion in deficit savings over the coming decade for his plan, a 12 percent cut from the federal deficits the administration otherwise projects. But that figure includes almost \$650 billion in spending cuts and new transportation revenues the administration won't specify.

Obama would trade cuts to some domestic programs to pay for increases in education, infrastructure and research

Obama's 2012 budget

President Barack Obama's budget proposal of \$3.7 trillion would cut current spending by 2.4 percent.



as necessary investments that he judges to be important to the country's competitiveness in a global economy.

But he also raises taxes by \$1.6 trillion over the coming decade, much of it from allowing recently renewed tax cuts for families making more than \$250,000 a year to expire in two years—he signed a two-year extension of them into law just two months ago—and from curbing their tax deductions for charitable contributions, mortgage interest and state and local tax payments.

Despite his spending cuts and tax

increases, the government's total debt would still mushroom from \$14.2 trillion now to almost \$21 trillion by 2016. Republicans assailed his blueprint for failing to take the lead on the nation's daunting fiscal problems.

"People vote for presidents because they want leadership," House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said in an interview. "They expect presidents to take on the greatest challenges facing the country. Well, the biggest crisis we have is the debt, and he's doing absolutely nothing to get it under

control." While Obama's budget total of \$3.7 trillion would be down slightly from this year's estimated \$3.8 trillion, lower war costs and naturally declining stimulus spending are chiefly responsible.

A year after appointing a bipartisan commission to recommend ways to deal with the debt, Obama would bypass almost all of its painful prescriptions to cut huge benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare. But the president said he understood more must be done.

"The only way to truly tackle our deficit is to cut excessive spending wherever we find it, in domestic spending, defense spending, health care spending and spending through tax breaks and loopholes," Obama said at a middle school outside Baltimore. "So what we've done here is make a down payment."

The White House and its allies said the administration was willing to go further in taking on the long-term problems of Social Security, Medicare and other huge benefit programs. But for Obama to go out on a limb and propose them now, they said, could be counterproductive. It would invite partisan attacks and rally interest groups in opposition.

Instead, Obama appears to be counting on private talks with lawmakers to spark action on the deficit this year, especially in the Senate, where a bipartisan group including several members of the Obama's debt commission are trying to be that catalyst.

"Ultimately the best strategy for getting a result is if we demonstrate in the Senate—Republicans and Democrats—that there's some serious prospect of taking this on," said Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., who's taking part in the Senate talks.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China's inflation rises as food costs surge

BEIJING (AP)—A double-digit jump in food prices pushed China's inflation higher in January, adding to pressure on Beijing to cool living costs with more interest rate hikes and other measures. Consumer prices rose 4.9 percent, driven by a 10.3 percent jump in food costs, data showed Tuesday. That was up from December's 4.6 percent rate and close to November's 28-month high of 5.1 percent. Beijing has hiked interest rates three times since October to cool rapid economic growth and tamp down inflation. But analysts say it needs to do more to curb soaring bank lending while it also tries to increase food supplies to bring down prices.

GM to pay more than \$400 million in worker bonuses

DETROIT (AP)—Less than two years after entering bankruptcy, General Motors will extend millions of dollars in bonuses to most of its 48,000 hourly workers as a reward for the company's rapid turnaround after it was rescued by the government. The payments, disclosed Monday in company documents, are similar to bonuses announced last week for white-collar employees. The bonuses to 76,000 American workers will probably total more than \$400 million—an amount that suggests executives have increasing confidence in the automaker's comeback. In the four years leading up to its 2009 bankruptcy, GM piled up more than \$80 billion in losses and was burdened by enormous debt and costly labor contracts.

Chevron fined \$8.6 billion in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—An Ecuadorian judge ruled Monday in an epic environmental case that Chevron Corp. was responsible for oil drilling contamination in a wide swath of Ecuador's northern jungle and ordered the oil giant to pay \$8.6 billion in damages and cleanup costs. The amount was far below the \$27.3 billion recommended by a court-appointed expert. But whether the plaintiffs—including indigenous groups who say their hunting and fishing grounds in the headwaters of the Amazon River were decimated by toxic wastewater—can collect remains to be seen. In a statement Chevron called the decision "illegitimate and unenforceable" and said it would appeal. It has long contended it could never get a fair trial in Ecuador and has removed all assets from this politically volatile Andean country, whose leftist president, Rafael Correa, had voiced support for the plaintiffs. Chevron it did not believe the judgment "enforceable in any court that observes the rule of law."

IT&E completes Next Generation Network project



IT&E completed the latest phase in its multi-million dollar Next Generation Network project for the CNMI and Guam that will upgrade existing infrastructure with over \$8 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The most recent work on the project is centered on the upgrade of 17 of IT&E's links to the base stations, or Hops. As a result, the upgrade increased the reliability of IT&E's 3G base stations as well as increased the backhaul capacity of IT&E's 3G data and voice network.

IT&E regional executive director Mar Santos said the upgrade of 17 Hops is just the first phase of Guam's 3G backhaul. The process entails the replacement of previously unlicensed microwave radio links that connect Guam's 3G base station to IT&E headquarters in Harmon.

Santos credited IT&E's Jun Baysa, Pete Lujan, Guam Wireless Operations,



A technician from Pacific Micronesia Tower climbs IT&E's tower in Harmon.

Guam Switch Operations, Saipan Network Services, for working with NEC, Pacific Micronesia Tower, and NESIC to complete the project.

"It took the combined efforts of everyone involved to make Phase 1 a success. Everyone really came together and put forth an enormous amount of effort on this project," he said.

IT&E wrapped up the first phase of the project on Jan. 28, but additional upgrades are currently underway. The second phase of the project began in December 2010 as IT&E and NERA initiated the frequency coordination and survey works of an additional 29 hops in the north and south of Guam.

"We actually started the 29 Hops last December and we expect to complete the 29 hops or Phase 2 by end of August 2011," said Santos.

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at (671)-922-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service in Harmon. (IT&E)

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,268.20	1,332.32	2,817.18
-5.07	3.17	7.74
-0.04%	+0.24%	+0.28%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9958	Indian Rupee	45.4250	Singapore Dollar	1.2799
	British Pound	0.6230	Indonesian Rupiah	8,897.5	South Korean Won	1,126.6
	Canadian Dollar	0.9874	Japanese Yen	83.3950	Swiss Franc	0.9693
	Chinese Yuan	6.5901	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0488	Taiwan Dollar	29.3975
	Euro	0.7401	New Zealand Dollar	1.3221	Thailand Baht	30.7000

Nation

Las Vegas wedding chapels deal with love recession

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Eriess Davis didn't want a traditional wedding: No conservative music and rows of unfamiliar guests. She wanted A Little White Chapel, in glitzy Las Vegas.

Wearing a mini-dress, David marched with her boyfriend, clad in black jeans, through a set of gold elevator doors, and into a waiting room where they could buy garters, memory books and bride and groom baseball caps.

For her, Valentine's Day 2011 was the perfect date.

"It's the day of love," said Davis, 23, as she and Matthew Jacobs, 23, waited for a minister.

It may be. But there's not much of it going around these days for wedding chapels in a city known for quickie marriages. There's a love recession in Las Vegas.

Fewer than 92,000 couples married in or around Sin City in 2010. The last time the city married fewer people, it was 1993.

Nevada wedding professionals and officials insist the decline is not a reflection of Las Vegas' waning popularity. Instead, they blame the foul economy and the ebbing interest in marriage.

"The volume is down," said Joni Moss, a longtime Las Vegas wedding planner and founder of the Nevada Wedding Association, a business group. "The



Richard, left, and Lisa Dishong, of Harrisburg, Penn. kiss while waiting to be married at the drive thru window of the Little White Wedding Chapel, Monday, Feb. 14, 2011 in Las Vegas.

number speaks for itself. And people are just spending less."

In Nevada, 85 percent of all marriages start in Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, and almost five percent of all marriages in the U.S. are held near the Las Vegas Strip's neon marquees and smoky gambling halls.

Marriages peaked in Clark County in 2004, when 128,250 couples tied the knot. Fewer people said "I do" in each sub-

sequent year.

Local governments, which issue marriage licenses, are feeling the effects.

Clark County made more than \$7 million at the peak in 2004. Last year, wedding-related revenue fell to roughly \$5.5 million. Coupled with declining property taxes, the wedding bust is a real bruise, the county says.

"It is a major part of the tourism," County Clerk Diana Alba said.

To help offset declining revenue, Alba's office stopped offering 24-hour wedding licenses in 2006, she said.

"The marriage demographic is aging," she said. "The baby boomer generation is all getting old. Marriage goes in and out of fashion and I think right now it is not as fashionable to get married."

In good years, weddings pump \$643 million into the local economy, said Alicia Malo-

NASA chief: Giffords welcome at husband's launch

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA's chief expressed hope Monday that Rep. Gabrielle Giffords will be able to attend her husband's shuttle launch in two months amid new signs of progress for the wounded congresswoman.

Astronaut Mark Kelly has said he expects his wife to be well enough to be at Cape Canaveral, Fla., for his launch of the space shuttle Endeavour, although her doctor says it's too early to say. "I think it would be tremendous for the crew, tremendous for all of us in the NASA family to have her do that. Tremendous for the nation when you get right down to it," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden told The Associated Press in Washing-

ton on Monday.

Bolden said Monday that he was "happy to approve" Kelly's decision to fly. Kelly resumed training last week at Johnson Space Center in Houston while Giffords continues rehab at a hospital in the same city. Kelly is commander of Endeavour's final voyage, which is slated for April 19.

Bolden said Giffords would be treated "like a normal spouse" if she could go to Florida, even though she's also the ranking Democrat on the committee that oversees the space agency.

"When he says Gabby would want him to fly that's what he

means," said Bolden. "She understands the importance of what we do."

Giffords was gravely wounded when she was shot in the head during a shooting rampage in Tucson, Ariz., that killed six and injured 12 others.

After two weeks in intensive care, she was moved to Houston, where her family and staff have reported in recent days that she can walk the halls of the hospital holding onto a cart and can mouth the words to simple songs.

NASA's Bolden said he hasn't seen or talked with Giffords. He said he's talked to Kelly a number of times and



Giffords

ne, a spokeswoman with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. About 1 million people visit each year to attend a wedding.

To make up for the wedding downturn, chapels are encouraging long-time couples to renew their vows and promoting commitment ceremonies for gay grooms and brides. Gay marriage is prohibited in Nevada.

At Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, business was up 20 percent in 2010 compared with 2009 partly because of the chapel's outreach to already married couples, said Brian Mills, general manager.

The chapel offers the kind of wedding frills Las Vegas is famous for: couples can get married by "Alice Cooper,"

"Tom Jones," and "Marilyn Monroe," among other celebrity impersonators.

In the most popular package, the bride can roll down the aisle in a vintage 1964 pink Cadillac driven by an Elvis Presley-lookalike. That package starts at \$777.

But there's only so many ways chapels can try to offset the marriage crash.

The national marriage rate has been on the skids since at least 2004, according to data from the Pew Research Center and the Census.

The Pew survey says marriages are on the decline among all groups, especially low-income couples. In 1960, two-thirds of all 20-somethings were married, Pew found. Only 26 percent were in 2008.

Al-Qaida member who aided London bombers released

NEW YORK (AP)—An al-Qaida operative who helped set up the camp where the 2005 London suicide bombers were trained has been sentenced to 10 years of probation after serving less than five years in prison.

Mohammed Junaid Babar, 35, confessed in 2004 to setting up the camp in South Waziristan, Pakistan, and equipping it with explosives, night vision goggles and camping gear. He told a federal judge in New York that he knew some of the militants were planning a bomb attack in Britain.

A year after his confession, four men who were trained at the camp detonated backpack bombs in the London subway, killing themselves and 52 victims. After the bombings, Babar testified for the government in four trials targeting al-Qaida militants, three of the trials in Britain and one in Canada. At least 10 people were convicted because of his testimony, the U.S. government says.

Babar pleaded guilty to five terrorism charges and faced a possible 70 years in prison, but court documents show that on Dec. 10 he was sentenced to time served and 10

years of probation as a reward for his cooperation. In all, he spent only four years and eight months behind bars, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

His sentence, which was originally reported on Monday by the Guardian newspaper, prompted a fierce reaction in Britain. A lawyer representing victims' families and survivors of the London bombings called the move "crazy."

"There is no way a reduction of this size has any regard to the feelings of victims," Clifford Tibber said Monday.

Graham Foulkes, whose 22-year-old son David was killed by one of the blasts that hit London's transport network, said Babar's cooperation with U.S. authorities does not diminish his role in the attacks.

"To be responsible for the deaths of 52 people, serve four-and-a-half years and be released and to say that means he has paid his debt to society just beggars belief," Foulkes told the U.K.'s Guardian newspaper.

Babar's defense lawyer did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.



ACROSS THE NATION

Ariz. may require hospitals to check citizenship

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona lawmakers are trying to widen the state's illegal immigration crackdown with a proposal to require hospitals to confirm whether patients are in the country legally. The National Conference of State Legislatures says it knows of no other states considering similar bills. The

proposal being heard late Monday by the Arizona Senate's judiciary committee would require hospitals to contact immigration authorities if a patient is an illegal immigrant. Arizona lawmakers passed a bill last year that required local police, while enforcing other laws, to question the immigration status of those they suspect are in the country illegally. A judge put that provision on hold.

Authorities: Jealousy prompts man to kill horses

JAMESTOWN TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Western Michigan authorities say a man killed two horses belonging to his wife and a stable owner he suspected was having an affair with her. Ottawa County sheriff's Lt. Mark Bennett says the suspect argued with his wife Friday night at the property of

the stable owner in Jamestown Township, about 10 miles southwest of Grand Rapids. Bennett tells The Grand Rapids Press that the husband returned Saturday and used a knife to kill his wife's quarter horse and the owner's Palomino. Forty-seven-year-old Dennis Finkler of Conklin was arraigned Monday on two counts of animal cruelty and one count of malicious destruction of property. He has

no listed telephone number and could not immediately be reached for comment.

Baby, 4 adults shot and wounded in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A 4-month-old girl was shot and wounded Monday afternoon after being caught in an exchange of gunfire in a New Orleans neighborhood near

the Mississippi River, police said. Capt. Bob Bardy said the infant was among five people wounded and apparently has been "stabilized." But he said two men who were hit are believed to be in critical condition. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu stopped by the site and deplored what he called "another senseless shooting." "It just defies common sense," he told reporters.

Asia

'PH rebels, stronger ahead of talks'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerillas grew stronger last year after a long period of battle losses, acquiring more fighters and guns and killing more government forces in a spike of attacks, a Philippine government report says ahead of renewed peace talks.

Government and rebel negotiators are to resume talks stalled for more than six years, on Tuesday in Norway. Both sides have declared a weeklong cease-fire to bolster the negotiations aimed at ending one of Asia's longest-running Marxist insurgencies.

Government negotiators have expressed hope that last year's election of reformist President Benigno Aquino III on the promise he would reduce poverty and improve governance would soften the rural-based insurgency, which has survived decades of military crackdown.

A confidential government threat assessment report, however, said the guerrillas managed to recover last year from a decline dealt by battle losses

since 2002 with its fighters increasing by 30 to 4,398 and firearms rising by more than 130 in just a year to 4,871.

The rebels managed to re-establish six rural strongholds that had been overrun by the military and staged 413 attacks—11 percent more than in 2009. Security personnel killed by the rebels rose by nearly 9 percent to 172, including 102 soldiers, due to improved guerrilla capability to make bombs used in ambushes, according to the report. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

"Despite what many consider its anachronistic ideology, the insurgency has endured," the Brussels-based International Crisis Group said. "Many of its criticisms of income inequality, human rights abuses and broader social injustice still resonate with some Filipinos."

The report said government forces killed 35 rebels last year and captured 131 others while more than 150 surrendered.

Military chief of staff Gen. Ricardo David Jr. said army

troops and police captured Alan Jazmines, a member of the policy-making central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, at a rebel safehouse in Baliuag town in Bulacan province before nightfall Monday.

The rebels protested the arrest and demanded his immediate and unconditional release "so that there will be no disruption of the formal peace talks."

Chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said in a statement that Jazmines is among guerrilla consultants to the talks covered by a government immunity from arrests and prosecution amid the negotiations.

The military has said that it was willing to release Jazmines if he was covered by the government immunity.

David said without elaborating that the arrest of Jazmines, shortly before a cease-fire came into force, was a setback to the Maoist rebels' "organizing, deception and propaganda efforts, adding "arrests of this kind will continue."

Blast at shopping mall in Afghan capital kills 2

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck Kabul's first Western-style shopping mall Monday, killing two security guards at the entrance to the complex in the second attack in less than a month targeting a site frequented by foreigners and upscale Afghans in the heavily secured capital.

The Ministry of Interior said the bomber detonated his explosives at the gates of the Kabul City Center shopping mall, which also houses the four-star Safi Landmark hotel. Two people were wounded in the blast.

"I was just outside my restaurant and suddenly I heard a huge explosion," said Ahmad Shah, 23, who works in a small eatery near the Safi Landmark. "I saw a large fire right at the gate of the City Center."

An Associated Press reporter

at the scene said the building was surrounded by hundreds of Afghan security forces. The blast destroyed the guarded entrance to the building and blew out windows. Several shops nearby also were damaged.

Severed body parts could be seen on the ground near the blast site. A spokesman for the Taliban, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the attack in a mobile phone text message sent to reporters.

Government officials, businessmen and foreigners regularly hold meetings at the Safi Landmark.

The Safi was heavily damaged a year ago when suicide attackers struck two residential hotels nearby, killing 20 people, including nine foreigners. After that attack, shops at the center, which sell jewelry, electronics and clothing, were

closed for months.

Shopkeepers nearby said Monday's damage appeared to be confined to the guarded entrance area, which was fortified shortly after last year's attack.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the bombing, which he said was aimed at civilians.

"Targeting a nonmilitary location shows how desperate and hopeless the enemies of Afghanistan have become," Karzai said in a statement.

It was the first bombing in the capital since Jan. 28, when a suicide attacker blew himself up at an upscale Kabul supermarket, killing eight people.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, NATO said a homemade bomb killed a coalition service member in the south of the country. It didn't say where exactly the blast occurred or provide the service member's nationality.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Longest kiss in history: 46-hour Thai smooch

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP)—It was one long kiss—one world-breaking embrace for mankind. One determined Thai couple locked lips for 46 hours, 24 minutes and nine seconds to celebrate Valentine's Day in this southern beach resort town, emerging victorious and exhausted after a landmark "kissathon" that organizers claim marked the longest recorded smooch in history. The previous record of just over 32 hours was set in 2009 by a couple in Germany, according to Guinness World Records, whose officials will have to verify the latest milestone for it to become official.

Japanese women fight to keep their surnames

TOKYO (AP)—A group of Japanese citizens filed a lawsuit Monday challenging a civil law that effectively stops women from keeping their surnames when they marry. The 113-year-old law requires married couples to choose just one surname for the man and woman to share, and custom means it's usually the man's. The lawsuit alleging that this violates constitutional equality is drawing attention to the rights of women in a country where they are underrepresented in corporate, academic and political ranks and still expected to do most of the home-making and childrearing.

Afghan bankers accused in fake check scheme

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Nine employees of Afghanistan's Central Bank and of a troubled private bank have been accused of stealing \$1.5 million through a fake check scheme, officials said Monday. The suspects were arrested two weeks ago and have confessed, officials said. Two of those detained worked for Kabul Bank, the country's largest private bank, which nearly collapsed last year after a management shake-up and corruption scandal. The other seven suspects were employed at the Central Bank's branch in Khost, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) south of the capital Kabul.

World

Tunisians vote with their feet by fleeing country

LAMPEDUSA, Italy (AP)—A month after massive protests ousted Tunisia's longtime dictator, waves of Tunisians are voting with their feet, fleeing the country's political limbo by climbing into rickety boats and sailing across the Mediterranean to Europe.

More than 5,000 illegal immigrants have recently washed up on Italy's southern islands—an unintended consequence of the "people's revolution" that ousted autocrat Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and inspired the uprisings in Egypt and beyond.

European powers cheered when Tunisia's 74-year-old ruler fled into exile in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 14, but the fallout a month later has tempered their enthusiasm. It has also exposed a dilemma for western countries that allied with repressive leaders in North Africa seen as bulwarks against extremism, and now must build new diplomatic relationships in a still-uncertain political climate.

Small commercial plane crash kills 14 in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—A small Honduran commercial airliner crashed Monday near the capital, killing all 14 people aboard, including a senior government official and a top union leader, authorities said.

The Central American Airlines plane was flying to the Toncontin international airport in Tegucigalpa when it crashed Monday morning in the town of Las Mesitas, about three miles (five kilometers) south of



A Carabinieri police officer walks past migrants as they wait to board a ship towards Porto Empedocle, in Sicily, where they will be taken for document checks, in Lampedusa, Italy, Monday, Feb. 14, 2011.

On Monday, the European Union announced a euro258 million (\$347 million) aid package to Tunisia from now until 2013, with euro17 million (\$22.9 million) of that to be delivered immediately. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, visiting Tunisia, said the funds were a gift, not a loan.

Meanwhile, Tunisia sternly rejected Italy's offer to send police there to help tackle waves of illegal migrants fleeing political up-

heaval, most landing on the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa—an arid one-town island of 6,000 people.

Lampedusa's Mayor Bernardino Rubeis told AP Television News that the island's detention center for migrants had to leave its doors open since there were not enough police to guard it.

Rubeis said the migrants were milling about, some buying food in shops and not causing any problems.

the airport.

The cause of the crash is being investigated, but there was fog in the area at the time. Ticontin airport is considered dangerous because of its short runway and surrounding hills.

The Let L-410 Turbolet was carrying two pilots and 12 passengers, including Assistant Secretary for Public Works Rodolfo Rovelo, United Workers Federation of Honduras leader Jose Israel Salinas and former Economy Secretary Carlos

Chain, said airline manager Felix Pacheco.

"I'm destroyed, in shock, because of what happened," Pacheco said, adding that it was a regularly scheduled daily flight.

The government declared three days of national mourning in honor of the government officials killed.

A pilot survived the crash but died on the way to a hospital, firefighters spokesman Jaime Silva said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chileans deny claims about miners' rescue

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chileans directly involved in saving 33 trapped miners last year rejected claims on Monday that the men seriously considered suicide and cannibalism, or that a technician fooled the world by transmitting previously videotaped scenes to cover up a potential disaster during the rescue. Reinaldo Sepulveda, who directed the live television feed that broadcast images of the rescue around the world, told The Associated Press that there was never any attempt to hide what was going on by repeating parts of the feed, as Jonathan Franklin alleges in his book, "33 Men." The book claims that at one point, a cable was cut by a rockslide, and previously broadcast images were

transmitted to cover it up.

Suicide bombers kill 2 in Russia

MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP)—A pair of suicide bombers, including a woman, attacked security forces in Russia's volatile Dagestan province on Monday, killing two security officials and wounding 21 others, according to officials and news reports. The female suicide bomber blew herself up as she tried to enter a police station in the village of Gubden—known as a stronghold of radical Islamists—killing one soldier and wounding six others, regional police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said. Several hours later, after Gubden was cordoned off by police and the military, another suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden

car near a police post, killing a police officer and wounding 17 other security personnel, the Interfax news agency reported.

Butterflies make partial comeback in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The number of monarch butterflies migrating from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico has increased this year, a hopeful sign following a worrying 75 percent drop in their numbers last year, experts reported Monday. The total amount of forest covered by the colonies—millions of orange-and-black butterflies that hang in clumps from the boughs of fir trees—more than doubled from last year's historic low. But concerns persist about the monarchs' long-term survival, because their numbers remain well below average.

Focus

The protests—all with critical interests for Washington—offer an important lesson about how groups across Middle East are absorbing the message from Cairo and tailoring it to their own aspirations

The heady themes of democracy, justice and empowerment remain intact as the protest wave works its way through the Arab world and beyond. What changes, however, are the objectives. The Egypt effect, it seems, is elastic.

“This isn’t a one-size-fits-all thing,” said Mustafa Alani, a regional analyst at the Gulf Research Center in Dubai. “Each place will interpret the fallout from Egypt in their own way and in their own context

For the Iranian opposition—not seen on the streets in more than a year—it’s become a moment to reassert its presence after facing relentless pressures. Tens of thousands of protesters clashed with security forces along some of Tehran’s main boulevards, which were shrouded in clouds of tear gas in scenes that recalled the chaos after the disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in June 2009. A pro-government news agency reported one bystander killed by gunfire.

“Death to the dictator,” many yelled in reference to Ahmadinejad. Others took aim Iran’s all-powerful Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei with chants linking him with toppled rulers Hosni Mubarak in Egypt and Tunisia’s Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali.

“Bin Ali, Mubarak, it’s Seyed Ali’s turn,” protesters cried.

The reformist website kaleme.com said police stationed several cars in front of the home of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi ahead of the demonstration. Mousavi and fellow opposition leader Mahdi Karroubi have been under house arrest since last week after they asked the government for permission to hold a rally in support of Egypt’s uprising—which Iran’s leaders have claimed was a modern-day replay of their 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Karroubi and Mousavi, however, have compared the unrest in Egypt and Tunisia with their own struggles. Mousavi said all region’s revolts aimed at ending the “oppression of the rulers.”

A new U.S. State Department Twitter account in Farsi took a jab at Iran in one of its first messages Sunday, calling on Tehran to “allow people to enjoy same universal rights to peacefully assemble, demonstrate as in Cairo.”

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed support for the Iranian protesters, saying they “deserve to have the same rights that they saw being played out in Egypt and are part of their own birthright.”

In Yemen, meanwhile, the protests are about speeding the ouster of the U.S.-allied president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has promised he would step down in 2013.

Monday’s protests mirrored the calls in Egypt and Tunisia against the leaders there who had been in power for decades: “The people want the regime to step down.”

Protesters in the tiny Gulf nation of Bahrain are not looking to topple its monarchy. But their demands are no less lofty: greater political freedom and sweeping changes in how the country is run.

The next possible round of demonstrations gives a similar divide.

A coalition in Algeria—human rights activists, unionists, lawyers and others—has called protests Saturday to push for the end of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika’s 12-year rule. Kuwait’s highly organized opposition, including parliament members, plans gatherings March 8 to demand a wholesale change of cabinet officials, but not the ruling emir.

“We are experiencing a pan-Arab democratic moment of sorts,” said Shadi Hamid, director of research at The Brookings Doha Center in Qatar. “For opposition groups, it comes down the question of, ‘If not now, when?’”

Egypt echoes across region: Iran, Bahrain, Yemen

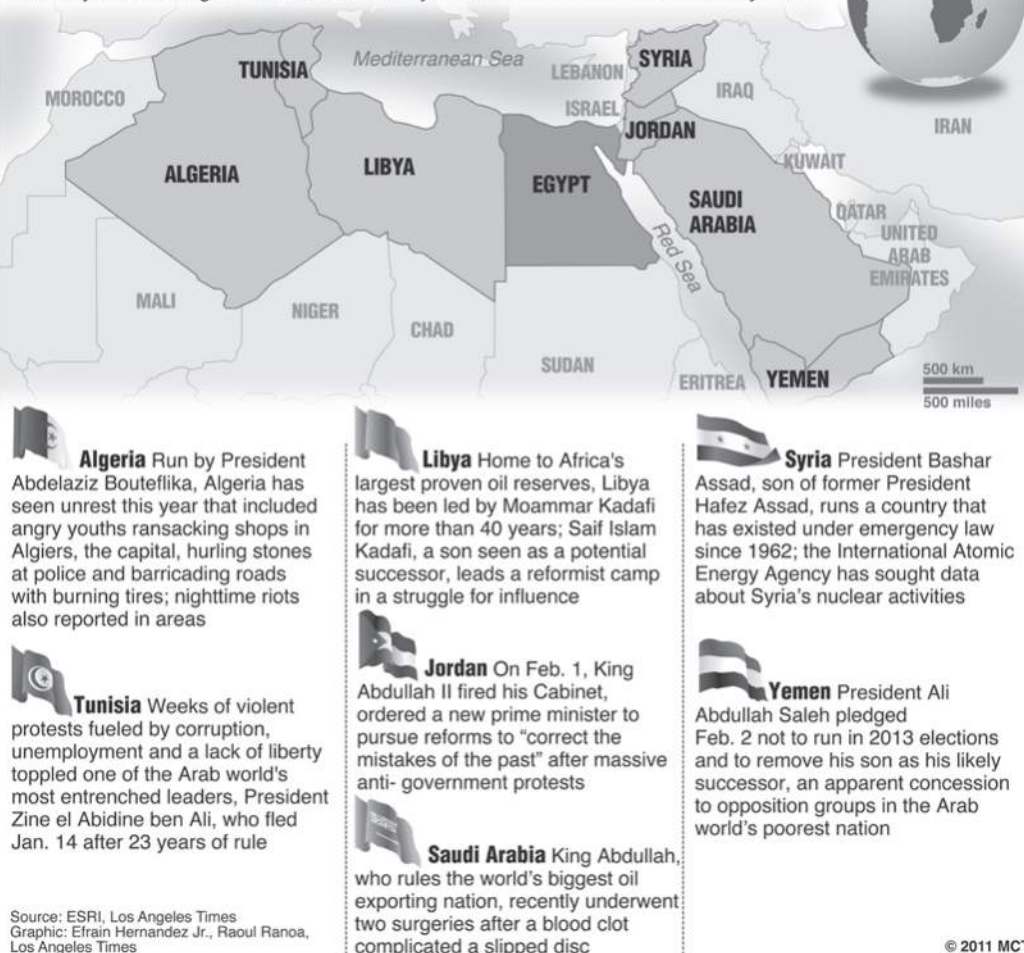
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The possible heirs of Egypt’s uprising took to the streets Monday in different corners of the Middle East: Iran’s beleaguered opposition stormed back to central Tehran and came under a tear gas attack by police. Demonstrators faced rubber bullets and birdshot to demand more freedoms in the relative wealth of Bahrain. And protesters pressed for the ouster of the ruler in poverty-drained Yemen



A supporters of the Yemeni government holds a poster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and waves a dagger during a clash with anti-government demonstrators, unseen, in Sanaa, Yemen, Monday, Feb. 14, 2011. More than 1,000 people protested in Yemen for a fourth straight day Monday, demanding political reforms and the ouster of the U.S.-allied president in demonstrations inspired by the upheaval in Egypt.

A region in flux

After Egypt’s revolution and the popular revolt in Tunisia, other governments in the Arab world are likely to be looking out for their own stability. Here’s a look at what the future may hold:



But he noted that the newfound Arab confidence for change will go in various directions.

“The Arab opposition are using the Egyptian model as a message that anything is possible,” Hamid said. “Then they interpret that into their local context.”

In Yemen, more than 1,000 people, including lawyers in their black courtroom robes, joined a fourth consecutive day of protests in the capital of Sanaa—a day after police attacked anti-government marchers with sticks and daggers. Human Rights Watch said police on

Sunday also used stun guns and batons to disperse protesters.

“We will continue our protests until the regime falls,” independent lawmaker Ahmed Hashid said.

Police separated the opposition rally from a hundred government supporters holding pictures of the president.

Bahrain was more violent. Security forces fired tear gas, rubber bullets and birdshot pellets at thousands of anti-government protesters heeding calls to unite in a major rally and bring the Arab reform wave to the Gulf for the first time. At least 25 people were injured, and one man died after suffering severe head trauma.

Police later used vans and other vehicles to block main roads into the capital of Manama to prevent a mass gathering that organizers intended as an homage to Egypt’s Tahrir Square. Social media sites have been flooded with calls by an array of political youth groups, rights activists and others to join demonstrations Monday, a symbolic day in Bahrain as the anniversary of the country’s 2002 constitution that brought pro-democracy reforms such as an elected parliament.

But opposition groups seek deeper changes from the country’s ruling dynasty, including transferring more decision-making powers to the parliament and breaking the monarchy’s grip on senior government posts. Bahrain’s majority Shiites—about 70 percent of the population—have long complained of systemic discrimination by the Sunni rulers.

The nation—no bigger in area than New York City—is among the most politically volatile in the Gulf. A crackdown on perceived dissidents last year touched off riots and street battles in Shiite areas.

Some protesters carried mock Valentine’s Day greetings from a prominent Bahraini blogger in custody, Ali Abdul-Imam.

“Arabs have been inspired by Egypt and empowered to believe that their voices must be heard and respected,” wrote James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute, in a commentary in Abu Dhabi’s The National newspaper. “It will make life more complicated for Western and Arab policy makers.”

Monday’s unrest touched on two key points of Washington’s Mideast constellation.

Bahrain is home to the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet, one of the Pentagon’s main counterweights to Iran’s attempts to expand influence in the Gulf. Yemen’s militant networks offer safe haven for al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, which has planned and launched several attacks against the U.S., including the attempted airliner bombing on Christmas Day 2009 and the failed mail bomb plot involving cargo planes last summer.

The U.S. military plans a \$75 million training program with Yemen’s counterterrorism unit to expand its size and capabilities in the nation’s difficult mountain terrain. Last month, the U.S. also delivered four Huey helicopters to Yemen and has been training the aviation units.

“What has happened in Tunisia and Egypt has terrified pro-Western Arab rulers,” said Fawaz Gerges, a professor of Middle Eastern politics at the London School of Economics.

“One of the lessons that the U.S. will take from current unrest is that the status quo is no longer sustainable,” he added. “There are huge cracks in the Arab authoritarian wall. It’s the end of an era and the U.S. must make very tough choices and decisions.”

Turkish President Abdullah Gul, who is visiting Iran, urged governments in the Middle East to listen to the their people.

“When leaders and heads of countries do not pay attention to the demands of their nations, the people themselves take action to achieve their demands,” the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Gul as saying.

Campus Life

San Francisco high schoolers hold HIV-testing day

By **MARCUS WOHLSEN**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—By the time today's teenagers were old enough to read, new drugs were available that meant HIV was no longer a death sentence.

But with infections among youth and young adults in the U.S. still rising, one senior at The Urban School of San Francisco decided his peers needed more than just another classroom lesson.

Nearly all 75 members of the senior class got tested for HIV in the school gym Friday.

"A lot of kids have never thought about it," said Oliver Hamilton, 17, who organized the testing. "The goal is to make HIV relevant."

The testing was voluntary, and organizers of the unusual event will not make any results public.

Tens of thousands of new HIV infections are diagnosed in the U.S. annually. Nearly a third of those involve youth and adults under 30, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Hamilton and the classmates he enlisted say it's important for teens to recognize that HIV/AIDS is their generation's disease, too—not just something that happened in the 1980s or afflicts only intravenous drug users and men who have sex with men.

Yet they also say that at a high school, any event that touches on such an intimate and often stigmatized health issue is a delicate endeavor.

In a class of just 75 students, news and gossip travel quickly.

"It's like CNN," said Daniel Alexander, 18. Of the HIV screening, he said, "It's definitely a test of our maturity."

Students attended forums in recent days to learn about HIV and the importance of respecting one another's privacy.

The students believe they're the first in U.S. to organize voluntary HIV testing for high school students, even though the CDC recommends that everyone ages 13 to 64 know their HIV status. Under California law, minors 12 and older can obtain testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases without their parents' permission.

Students at Urban signed their own consent forms to be tested. Administrators and students at the \$32,000-per-year private school just a block off Haight Street say there was little friction with parents over the plan.

"It just made sense to me, especially considering the latest statistics with teens and this disease," said Diane Welch, co-president of the parents association at Urban, where her daughter is a senior. "It just makes sense that this generation start monitoring their HIV status as a regular part of their health care routine."

It's also the message of Dr. Marcus Conant, who has mentored Hamilton as an assistant in his office and who will conduct the school's tests.

As a dermatologist working in San Francisco in the early 1980s, Conant began seeing a sudden surge in cases of Kaposi's sarcoma among young gay men. An otherwise extremely rare dis-



In this Feb. 10, 2011 photo, Oliver Hamilton, 17, foreground, poses for a photograph with classmates Robert Kline, 18, left, Daniel Alexander, 18, rear, and Rayhannah Dar, 18, at The Urban School of San Francisco in San Francisco.



In this Feb. 10, 2011 photo, Oliver Hamilton, 17, top, poses for a photograph with classmates Daniel Alexander, 18, left, Robert Kline, 18, bottom, and Rayhannah Dar, 18, at The Urban School of San Francisco in San Francisco.

ease, Kaposi's sarcoma afflicts patients with compromised immune systems.

Conant recognized that something unusual and frightening was happening. He soon became one of the first physicians in the U.S. to diagnose and treat AIDS.

Today, Conant believes that HIV testing more than any other single measure will contribute the most to finally eradicating the disease. People who know they're infected are more likely to take steps to prevent spreading the disease to others, he says, and regular use of anti-viral drugs can make an infected individual almost non-contagious.

"Testing actually increases responsibility," Conant said. "What we really need to do to stop this disease in America is to get everybody tested."

Conant and Hamilton together hope that Friday's event can serve as a model that will spread to other schools in San Francisco.

They hope that other private schools with their greater resources and independence will step up and ultimately demonstrate to the public school sys-

tem as well that such a program is possible despite privacy concerns and the frank talk about sex and drugs that would be required.

Students at Urban say setting an example that shows HIV testing in high schools can work is part of the incentive to handle the experience like adults.

Though the test being used—simple swab of the inside of the mouth—can provide same-day results, students and administrators agreed that they should receive their results in private and at home. They will hear via telephone or email on Tuesday.

If a student tests positive, he or she will get a call from Conant personally.

Conant says the likelihood of these affluent, highly educated students testing positive is remote. They have demographics working in their favor, and don't appear to fall into any high-risk groups. But student organizers say getting tested is also about a rite of passage.

"It's helping people's awareness about responsibility," said Rayhannah Dar, 17. "It's showing me how responsible I need to be for others and myself."

Study: Students need more paths to career success

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The current U.S. education system is failing to prepare millions of young adults for successful careers by providing a one-size-fits-all approach, and it should take a cue from its European counterparts by offering greater emphasis on occupational instruction, a Harvard University study published Wednesday concludes.

The two-year study by the Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education notes that while much emphasis is placed in high school on going on to a four-year college, only 30 percent of young adults in the United States successfully complete a bachelor's degree.

While the number of jobs that require no post-secondary education have declined, the researchers note that only one-third of the jobs created in the coming years are expected to need a bachelor's degree or higher. Roughly the same amount will need just an associate's degree or an occupational credential.

"What I fear is the continuing problem of too many kids dropping by the wayside and the other problem of kids going into debt, and going into college but not completing with a degree or certificate," said Robert Schwartz, who heads the project and is academic dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. "Almost everybody can cite some kid who marched off to college because it was the only socially legitimate thing to do but had no real interest."

The report highlights an issue that has been percolating among education circles: That school reform should include more emphasis on career-driven alternatives to a four-year education.

The study recommends a "comprehensive pathways network" that would include three elements: embracing multiple approaches to help youth make the transition to adulthood, involving the nation's employers in things like work-based learning, and creating a new social compact with young people.

Many of the ideas aren't new, and leaders, including President Barack Obama, have advocated for an increased role for community colleges so the country can once again lead the world in the proportion of college graduates. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan will deliver opening remarks at the report's release in Washington.

But the idea of providing more alternatives, rather than emphasizing a four-year college education for all, hasn't been without controversy. Critics fear students who opt early for a vocational approach might limit their options later on, or

that disadvantaged students at failing schools would be pushed into technical careers and away from the highly selective colleges where their numbers are already very slim.

"You've got to work on both fronts at once," Schwartz said, arguing for intensifying efforts to get more low-income and minority students into selective institutions while strengthening the capacity of two-year colleges.

The study recommends that all major occupations be clearly outlined at the start of high school. Students would see directly how their course choices prepare them careers that interest them - but still be able to change their minds. Students should also be given more opportunities for work-based learning, such as job shadowing and internships.

Students, the researchers recommend, should get career counseling and work-related opportunities early on - no later than middle school. In high school, students would have access to educational programs designed with the help of industry leaders, and they'd be able to participate in paid internships.

The report notes that many European countries already have such an approach, and that their youth tend to have a smoother transition into adulthood. And not all separate children into different paths at an early age. Finland and Denmark, for example, provide all students with a comprehensive education through grades 9 or 10. Then they are allowed to decide what type of secondary education they'd like to pursue.

Barney Bishop, president and CEO of Advanced Industries of Florida, said he would advocate for an approach that provides more alternatives and greater inclusion of the business community.

"The problem for the business community is where you have kids who don't have the rudimentary skills, and you have to take the time and effort to train them, get them some of the rudimentary skills, plus the special skills," he said.

Sandy Baum, an independent higher education policy analyst, said she think there needs to be more counseling in advising students about how to make the right choices.

"I don't think the problem is too many people going to four-year colleges," she said. "The problem is too many people making inappropriate choices."

"What we'd like is a system where people of all backgrounds could choose to be plumbers or to be philosophers," Baum added. "Those options are not open. But we certainly need plumbers so it's wrong to think we should be nervous about directing people in that route."

Life & Style

'Jeopardy!' pits man against computer in Round 1

NEW YORK (AP)—In the "Jeopardy!" battle of man vs. machine, man and machine were neck-and-neck on Monday.

Human player Brad Rutter and the supercomputer named Watson ended an initial round tied at \$5,000. The other challenger, human Ken Jennings, was far behind with \$2,000.

Rutter (the show's all-time money-winner with \$3.25 million) and Jennings (who has the longest winning streak at 74 games) are the most successful players in "Jeopardy!" history. Watson, named for IBM founder Thomas J. Watson, is powered by 10 racks of computer servers running the Linux operating system.

"You are about to witness what may prove to be an historic competition," host Alex Trebek told viewers at the top of the show.

No question, Watson proved to be an amazing competitor—maybe even a little creepy in the speed and accuracy he displayed.

With categories including Beatles People, Olympic Oddities and Name the Decade, the round got started with Rutter choosing the first question, Alternate Meanings for \$200:



In this undated publicity image released by Jeopardy Productions, Inc., host Alex Trebek, left, poses with contestants Ken Jennings, center, and Brad Rutter and a computer named Watson in Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

"4-letter word for a vantage point or a belief."

"What is a view?" was Rutter's correct response.

But Watson took charge with his answer to Alternate Meanings for \$400: "4-letter word for the iron fitting on the hoof of a horse or a card-dealing box in a casino."

"What is a shoe?" said Watson

in his resonant electronic voice.

His next selection was the game board's Daily Double, and, after wagering \$1,000, he correctly named the literary character being sought: "Who is Hyde?"

At one point Watson was dominating to the tune of \$4,000, against \$200 each for Jennings and Rutter. Then Rut-

ter, giving hope to worried human viewers, began his rally.

Along the way, Watson made a few embarrassing stumbles.

After Jennings incorrectly said the 1920s was the decade in which Oreo cookies were introduced, Watson jumped in with his answer: "What is 1920s?"

"No," Trebek told him. "Ken said that!"

Kenneth Mars, co-star in Mel Brooks comedies, dies

GRENADA HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Kenneth Mars, a Mel Brooks collaborator who played a Hitler-worshipping playwright in "The Producers" and an earnest police inspector with a malfunctioning artificial arm in "Young Frankenstein," has died. He was 75.

In a statement Monday, Mars family said the actor died Saturday of pancreatic cancer at his home in Grenada Hills.

In Brooks' 1968 romp "The Producers," Mars co-starred as



In this 1968 film publicity image originally released by Embassy Pictures, Kenneth Mars portrays a Hitler-worshipping playwright in a scene from "The Producers." AP

Franz Liebkind, a Nazi enthusiast whose play, "Springtime for Hitler," is the basis for a scheme by two conniving showmen (Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder) to bilk investors by putting on a surefire Broadway flop.

Brooks cast Mars again in 1974's "Young Frankenstein" as the constable poking around the castle grounds on the trail of mad scientist Wilder's monster.

In both films, the Chicago-born Mars demonstrated his talent for vocal farce, lending over-the-top German accents to the characters.

Mars' nearly 50-year career included a long list of voice credits, including "The Little Mermaid," "The Jetsons" and

the "The Land Before Time" movies and TV series.

Among Mars' other film credits were Woody Allen's "Radio Days" and "Shadows and Fog," and Peter Bogdanovich's "What's Up, Doc." His extensive television work featured regular roles on "Malcolm in the Middle," "Fernwood Tonight" and the 1960s series "He & She."

On stage, Mars appeared in such plays as "The Affair" and "Anything Goes."

Mars is survived by two daughters, Susannah Mars Johnson and Rebecca Mars Tipton, and six grandchildren.

A private funeral service was planned.

China limits smoking in films, TV shows

BEIJING (AP)—China is ordering makers of films and TV shows to limit the amount of smoking depicted on-screen, the latest effort to curb rampant tobacco use in the country with the largest number of smokers in the world.

The order from the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television viewed Tuesday on its website orders producers to minimize plot lines and scenes involving tobacco and show smoking only when necessary for artistic purposes or character development.

Minors under age 18 cannot be shown smoking or buying cigarettes, and characters may not smoke in public buildings or other places where smoking is banned.

Where possible, actors and directors are encouraged to leave smoking out of their productions, the circular said, adding images of smoking in movies and television shows were out of sync with government efforts to control tobacco use.

The order does not mention entertainment imported from other nations. Hollywood

blockbusters have had success in the Chinese market despite revenue quotas that effectively limit how many foreign productions are released in China.

China has been tightening up restrictions on smoking over the past decade, banning tobacco advertising and sponsorships of major sporting events.

That's part of a slow realization of the massive toll heavy tobacco use is taking on an aging, increasingly urbanized population. Tobacco use is linked to the deaths of at least 1 million people every year in China, where 300 million

people, or nearly 30 percent of adults, smoke.

While numbers of smokers have remained flat for the past decade, mortality rates among them are rising fast. If trends continue, by 2030 an estimated 3.5 million Chinese will die from smoking each year, according to a report issued last month by a group of prominent Chinese public health experts and economists.

The report cited China's failure to take basic measures such as passing a national law to ban smoking in indoor public places and raising the price of cigarettes.

Rutter got it right when he responded, "What are the 1910s?"

Later, Watson slipped up on the question: "Stylish elegance, or students who all graduated in the same year."

"What is chic?" ventured Watson.

"What is class?" Rutter correctly answered.

The exhibition matches

will continue on Tuesday and Wednesday on the popular trivia TV game show. Two complete games will be aired, with the winner collecting \$1 million. The bouts were taped at the IBM research center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., last month. Both men and Watson have managed to keep the final outcome under wraps.

Sept. 11 memorial to have limited access for years

NEW YORK (AP)—The Sept. 11 memorial will open in the World Trade Center's footprints by the 10th anniversary of the 2001 attacks, but for years afterward access will be limited to a set number of people and mourners will be surrounded on all sides by the noise of construction, the memorial foundation president said Monday.

It will be years before the millions of people who want to visit the center have unfettered access to the memorial site, said Joe Daniels, president of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. Ultimately, visitors will be able to approach the memorial and its green spaces and cobblestoned plazas from all sides. But for years visitors will be surrounded by construction of skyscrapers and a transit hub and may only use one entrance, and organizers will observe strict capacity limits for safety reasons, Daniels said.

"We are planning to use a free, timed reservation system," Daniels said Monday. "Visitors will plan their trip to the memorial in advance by reserving a pass for a specific date for a specific time."

Preliminary plans call for a limit of 1,500 visitors at a time, with special consideration being given to the relatives of Sept. 11 victims. Visitors will have to sign up online for available spots and print out their free tickets.

The foundation president, who presented details of the opening to a downtown Man-

hattan community board on Monday night, said that the first public visitors to the site would get spectacular views of the rebuilding.

"When they look around, they are going to be seeing, column by column, floor by floor, the World Trade Center site being rebuilt," Daniels told The Associated Press on Monday. "It's the front-row seat of seeing the tallest building in the United States built."

The 1,776-foot 1 World Trade Center, formerly known as the Freedom Tower, is being built just northwest of the memorial site and won't open until 2013. Hundreds of trees will still need to be planted, and cobblestones will need to be filled in to the 8-acre memorial plaza after Sept. 11, 2011. A transit hub is under construction at the site until at least 2015, along with at least one other skyscraper planned for the site. A performing arts center initially was planned for the site.

Daniels said visitors would not need hard hats to visit "Reflecting Absence," the twin reflecting pools shaped in the footprints of the fallen twin towers and surrounded by parapets listing the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the 2001 attacks and in the 1993 trade center bombing. The first visitors from the public will be allowed in on Sept. 12, the day after a 10th anniversary ceremony at the site for victims' families and other invited guests.

Tatum O'Neal releasing second memoir, 'Found'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tatum O'Neal has not finished telling her life story.

The Academy Award-winning actress has a second memoir, "Found," scheduled to come out in June. The book, published by HarperCollins, is a follow-up to "A Paper Life," which was released in 2004.

HarperCollins announced Monday that the new book will be "part memoir, part Hollywood tell-all, part

personal journal."

The 47-year-old O'Neal was 10 years old when she won an Oscar for "Paper Moon," but she has since struggled with substance abuse. She also was estranged for years from her father and "Paper Moon" co-star, Ryan O'Neal.

"Found" will coincide with the airing of "Ryan and Tatum: The O'Neals," a reality show on OWN about O'Neal and her father.



Tatum

Grammys sing the praises of independent labels

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Independent labels reveled in their success Monday after grabbing the spotlight and many of the biggest awards at the Grammys. It marked one of the biggest nights in years for indies, setting the stage for a surge in their online music sales.

Meanwhile, the rest of music industry is trying to figure out if the unsung acts from smaller labels are winning major awards because of the viral nature of the Internet—or in spite of it.

The presence of the indies during the annual awards show has grown in recent years as more bands appeal to fans directly through Facebook and YouTube instead of traditional sales channels.

A record number of nominations this year and the most wins in two years proved that a good band can break out despite lacking the resources of a major recording company.

"This was a major, major night for the independents," said Daniel Glass, CEO of Glassnote Records, whose band Mumford & Sons performed during the show and was nominated for best new artist but didn't win.

Canadian indie band Arcade Fire won for album of the year—an unprecedented third straight time an indie label act has taken the top crown. In all, independent label artists won awards in 45 of 108 categories, the most since 2008, and they accounted 273 of the 542 nominations, up from 231 three years ago, according to the American Association of Independent Music.

Despite the critical acclaim, just 11 percent of the music sold last year came from artists signed to labels other than the majors Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment, Warner Music Group Corp. and EMI Group Ltd., according to Nielsen SoundScan.

The relative obscurity of some acts left some Twitter posters stunned ("Album of the year goes to who?" one tweeted) but with 484,000 albums sold since "The Suburbs" was released in August, according to SoundScan, Arcade Fire has a solid following.

"There's a lot of great music being made outside of the major label system," said Re-



Arcade Fire perform at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, in Los Angeles.

AP

cording Academy President Neil Portnow. "It's created a window of opportunity for some very independent, forward-thinking, risk-taking entrepreneurs."

The most stunning victor of the night may have been Esperanza Spalding, a little known but well-loved jazz bassist and vocalist who topped Justin Bieber, the teen sensation with a half billion video views, for best new artist.

Spalding's Concord Music Group, among the largest of the independent labels with more than \$100 million in annual revenue, said votes might have split among the other popular nominees, Bieber, Drake, Florence + The Machine, and Mumford & Sons, allowing his star to shine.

"I think the truly sophisticated voters, the member base of (The Recording Academy) ... had no choice but to vote for her. This is an artist that really has undeniable talent and superior musicianship," said Concord's chief label officer, Gene Rumsey.

Portnow insists that the system set up for the Grammys' 12,000 voting members helps prevent results that only favor the most popular artists. Major labels have too few qualified voting producers

to guarantee wins for their artists, and artists tend not to vote in lock-step with their label mates, he said.

Instead, all of the voters gain equal access to the nominees' music online on a password-protected site. Sometimes during a listening session, the cream can unexpectedly rise to the top, he said.

For independent labels, a win can be transformative.

Google was flooded with "Esperanza Spalding" searches after her win was announced. Online album sales hit 3,000 over 12 hours on Sunday night up from an average of 300 the previous week, according to Mike Gillespie, Concord's senior vice president of sales. The company plans to ship up to 100,000 physical CDs this week, up from the normal 2,000 to 3,000 discs, as stores like Best Buy stock up on the winners. If sold, the amount would more than triple her sales so far.

Arcade Fire's Durham, N.C.-based indie label, Merge Records, was so unprepared for the win that its founders Mac McCaughan and Laura Ballance, of the band Superchunk, were in Japan on tour and didn't attend the live show.

Merge publicist Christina Rentz said

there was virtually no campaigning for Grammy votes aside from a small ad in Billboard magazine.

"We don't play the game. We don't know how it's played. And this happened," she said. "Hopefully it'll encourage musicians to know that you can do it your way and have recognition from the bigwigs."

Courtney Holt, the president of MySpace Music and a voting member of the Academy, vouched for the legitimacy of the Grammy system. He thinks the ballot serves as a gut check among fellow artists, who aren't as swayed by what music is selling the most.

Holt hailed Arcade Fire as a "band's band" that earned the respect of other musicians. The group represented the closest thing to the archetypal rock band in a category whose other nominees were Eminem, Lady Antebellum, Lady Gaga and Katy Perry. Given the popularity of those artists, Arcade Fire also probably won support for being the underdogs.

"People talk about the rise of independents in the modern music business," Holt said. "Maybe this is an example of that being celebrated."

Spanish Harlem Orchestra celebrates Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—When Spanish Harlem Orchestra snagged its second Grammy award, it was a victory for the old school salsa sound over tough competition from Latin music's new guard.

Bandleader Oscar Hernandez—who has worked with such salsa greats as Ray Barretto and Cuban singer Celia Cruz—said Monday that the win venerates the traditional "salsa dura" sound that for years has taken a back seat to the more commercial "salsa romantica."

"The music speaks for itself," Hernandez said by telephone from Los Angeles. "It's high energy and high quality ... Some people consider it old guard or a museum piece. But other people relish it and see the beauty of it."

The album's name "Viva la Tradicion," says it all. By winning the best Latin tropical album category, it knocked out such heavyweights as Puerto Rico's El Gran Combo, Gilberto Santa Rosa and Dominican merengue star Juan Luis Guerra—who won album of the year at the Latin Grammys in November.



AP

Oscar Hernandez, left, and Marco Bermudez pose backstage with the award for best tropical latin album at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 13, 2011, in Los Angeles.

"I'm sure a lot of people will take notice and say 'Who are these guys?' We've built our fan base little by little, hopefully this will help it grow even

more," said the 56-year-old Hernandez.

Actually, the decade-old New York-based band has had quite a run at the Grammys: Each of its four stu-

dio album have earned a Grammy nomination.

In 2005, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra beat out salsa superstar Marc Anthony to win what then best salsa/merengue album for "Across 110th Street," which included guest spots by Rueben Blades.

The 13-member band specializes in a hard-driving brand of salsa that reigned in the 1960s and '70s, but has since been displaced by crooners who sing a softer brand of salsa.

When Cruz and Tito Puente died, Hernandez said the big Latin radio stations had to rush out and buy their music so they could play it, because they didn't own copies of the old records anymore.

"I hope this could be an impetus to keep this kind of music alive," said Hernandez. "The salsa on commercial radio is not good music, it's not representative of what this music is. It's been forgotten over the last 15 years, and people have been latching on to reggaeton and pop salsa. It's an uphill struggle."

Judge tosses Beckham libel suit against magazine

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A federal judge on Monday dismissed David Beckham's libel and slander lawsuit against In Touch magazine over a story that claimed he cheated on his wife with a prostitute.

Beckham's attorney, Richard B. Kendall, vowed to appeal the ruling and disprove the celebrity tabloid's claims about the international soccer star, who is married to a former Spice Girl.

U.S. District Judge Manuel Real said in his ruling that Beckham is a public figure and his attorneys hadn't shown any evidence In Touch published the story with malice. He also said that allegations of any infidelity by Beckham would be of interest to the public.

Elizabeth McNamara, who represented In Touch's owner Bauer Publishing Co., said the magazine did everything possible to corroborate details from the prostitute's on-the-record interview. She told Real that the woman's account was "entirely consistent with Mr. Beckham's reputation as a serial philanderer."

The magazine has not retracted the story.

Beckham's camp continued to deny and attack In Touch's story, and said they had already won a judgment over the report.

"We have already won a court ruling in Germany and are awaiting damages," Beckham spokesman Jeff Raymond said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the U.S. legal system requires us to show that the magazine acted maliciously. Any knowledgeable person knows this story not to be true, and we will continue to fight this in court and the decision will be appealed."

Beckham sued In Touch in September and was seeking \$25 million. The Los Angeles Galaxy star argued in a court filing in January that he was visiting his ailing father in London during one of the alleged trysts with the purported call girl Irma Nici.

Kendall said a basic investigation by the magazine would have shown that Beckham was elsewhere when the alleged trysts occurred. He asked the judge to allow the case to proceed so that he could conduct depositions that would bolster Beckham's case, but Real refused.

"We were left with two hands tied behind our back for the purposes of this motion," Kendall said after the hearing.

He said In Touch had taken specific steps to block its story from being seen in Beckham's native England, where Kendall said libel laws would have resulted in a quicker resolution to the case in the soccer star's favor.

"Obviously, we're pleased," McNamara said after the hearing. "We think the court followed the law and did the correct thing."

Beckham and his wife, Victoria, said last month they are expecting their fourth child this summer.

Sheen: He's ready to work on 'Two and a Half Men'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen is off work from "Two and a Half Men" but still making jokes, including about when his top-rated sitcom might resume production. The CBS series went on hiatus last month after Sheen was briefly hospitalized following a 911 call in which a neighbor said the actor was intoxicated and in pain.

In an interview on "The Dan Patrick Show," which airs in syndication on radio and on satellite TV provider DirecTV, Sheen said he was prepared to get back on the set but those in charge of the series weren't.

"They said, 'You get ready and we'll get ready.' And I got ready and went back and nobody's there," he said. "I'm here and I'm ready. They're not. Bring it, you know?"

Sheen said he tends to "un-

ravel pretty quickly," so suggested producers should put him to work now.

Asked about when shooting would resume, he joked, "I believe August of 2014 at this pace. I don't know, it's supposed to be like the 28th or the 29th. That's what it is! It's the 29th in a non-leap year."

A spokesman for Sheen said previously he hoped to return to work by the end of February.

CBS and producer Warner Bros. Television declined comment on when production might resume on the Monday night sitcom that has filmed only 16 of the season's planned 24 episodes. The network and studio have expressed concern for the actor's well-being.

In the interview with former ESPN anchor Patrick, Sheen acknowledged that he's had "some



This Jan. 28, 2009 file photo shows Charlie Sheen in Los Angeles.

problems lately" and said staying away from crack cocaine is good advice unless a person can "manage it socially."

Asked if he could, Sheen replied, "Yeah, yeah, but that kinda blew up in my face ... like an exploding crack pipe."

He said he is sober now.

Sheen's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, initially cited the actor's history of hernia problems when Sheen was hospitalized. He later said his client went into rehab, but he did not say why.

Last week, a judge finalized Sheen's divorce from Brooke Mueller Sheen. The judgment followed several tumultuous months for the actor, including a New York hospitalization that came after he was taken by police from a room at a luxury New York hotel that was left in shambles.

Sheen signed a new two-year contract at the end of last season that makes him one of the highest-paid actors on prime-time television.

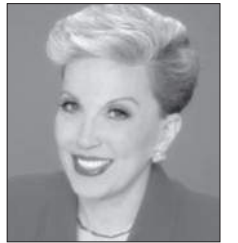
Aunt fears sexually active niece is headed for trouble

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: This is difficult to write. My sister reads her children's text messages after they're asleep. She bragged to me about how popular her daughter "Naomi"—my 14-year-old niece—is because she's giving oral sex to the boys.

My sister claims Naomi isn't "having sex," so she thinks it's OK! I am shocked by her ignorance and terrified knowing that Naomi is putting herself at risk for STDs. My husband says if I confront Naomi it will drive her away, but I can't remain silent and watch my niece ruin her life. What's the point of reading your children's text messages if you're unwilling to stand up and be a parent? What can I do?

TERRIFIED FOR MY NIECE IN THE SOUTH-WEST



Dear Abby

DEAR TERRIFIED: Your sister's parenting skills are appalling. Her daughter isn't "popular"; she is promiscuous—and her mother is allowing it. Do your niece a favor and talk to her, because oral sex IS sex, and she is putting herself at risk for a number of sexually transmitted diseases.

The Sexuality Information and Education Council has a wealth of information resources and tools for addressing this important subject. Its website, www.familiesaretalking.org, helps with discussing sexuality-related issues and provides information for young people, parents and caregivers.

Other reliable resources include Planned Parenthood's www.teenwire.com and the American Social Health Association website, www.iwannaknow.org, which is also a safe place for teens to learn about sexual health.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was raised a Christian, but now that I am older I am questioning my faith. I consider myself an agnostic, borderline atheist.

The problem is I am married and a father. I want to raise my children to be open-minded and tolerant, but I don't know how I should go about it. How do I answer the question, "Is there a God?" when I myself am not sure? Have you any advice on the subject?

AGNOSTIC DAD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR AGNOSTIC DAD: Many deeply spiritual people are agnostic. The way to raise open-minded, tolerant children is to talk to them about your values and model that behavior for them. Parents convey their values verbally and by demonstrating them. As to the question, "Is there a God?" you and your wife should discuss that question in advance so she can have some input and you can handle this together.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law is eight weeks pregnant. The problem is, she carries the gene for cystic fibrosis. One of her siblings is a carrier and another has multiple sclerosis. I advised my son that it didn't seem to be a good idea to get pregnant, but they both appear unconcerned about the repercussions.

Should I mind my own business and hope for the best? Or should I be worried about the future health of their expected child?

WORRIED GRAMMA-TO-BE

DEAR WORRIED: As a loving grandparent, you will always be concerned about your grandchildren's welfare. What you should do is suggest that your son and daughter-in-law discuss their family medical histories with her OB/GYN and take their lead from the doctor. (If they haven't already done so.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



In this July 28, 2010 file photo, Sharon Osbourne arrives at the CBS CW Showtime press tour party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Sharon Osbourne, 'Charm School' star settle case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sharon Osbourne and a former contestant on her VH1 show "Rock of Love Charm School" have settled a battery and negligence lawsuit on the eve of trial.

Attorneys for Osbourne and Megan Hauserman confirmed they settled the case, which was about to begin with opening statements on Monday.

Hauserman sued Osbourne in March 2009, claiming she was struck and had her hair pulled by the wife of musician Ozzy Osbourne during an episode of the show. VH1 promoted the fracas as "Sharon and Megan's big fight."

In the video, the women exchange insults, Osbourne pours a drink on Hauserman and then the two are surrounded by a rush of people.

Both Osbourne's attorney, Howard Weitzman, and Hauserman's attorney, Roderick Lindblom, said they could not discuss the settlement.

Christina Aguilera, ex finalize divorce in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Christina Aguilera and music executive Jordan Bratman have finalized their divorce.

Most of the details of the couple's breakup were not filed with the court, but the judgment will not become official until April 15.

Aguilera filed for divorce in October, just days after she and Bratman announced they had separated. It takes six months in California for a divorce to become official.

They have a 3-year-old son and have said he remains their top priority.

Aguilera performed at Sunday's Grammy Awards in a tribute medley to singer Aretha Franklin, and also sang the national anthem at this year's Super Bowl. The performances weren't without glitches—she botched a line in the national anthem and took a spill on the Grammys stage.



In this March 23, 2007 file photo originally provided by Starpix, singer Christina Aguilera and her husband Jordan Bratman attend a party at the Marquee club in New York.

Spidey film gets a title: 'The Amazing Spider-Man'



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Web-slinger Peter Parker has a name for his next big-screen adventure: "The Amazing Spider-Man."

Distributor Sony Pictures announced the title Monday for the film due in theaters July 3, 2012. Now in production and being shot in 3-D, the film stars Andrew Garfield as Peter, the ordinary youth who gains superpowers from a bite by a mutant spider.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" co-stars Emma Stone, Rhys Ifans, Denis Leary, Campbell Scott, Irrfan Khan, Martin Sheen and Sally Field.

Directed by Marc Webb ("500 Days of Summer"), the film is a re-launch of the franchise after the 2002 blockbuster "Spider-Man" and its two sequels, which starred Tobey Maguire as the Marvel Comics superhero.

In this publicity image released by Sony Pictures, Andrew Garfield portrays as Spider-Man in Columbia Pictures' "The Amazing Spider-Man."

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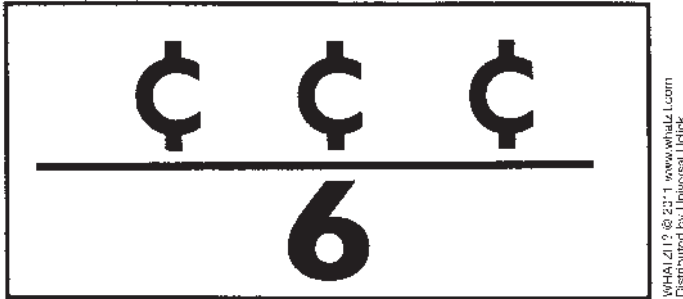
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Bobcats continue mastery of Lakers, 109-89



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson was so upset he spoke to reporters for 5 seconds and then walked away. Kobe Bryant sneaked out of the locker room before addressing the press at all.

A once promising road trip has quickly turned sour for the two-time defending champions, although they probably should have seen their most lopsided loss of the season coming.

The Charlotte Bobcats somehow own them.

Gerald Wallace had 20 points and 11 rebounds, Gerald Henderson added 18 points and helped slow Bryant, and the Bobcats cruised to a 109-89 victory on Monday night to extend one of the more unusual one-sided matchups in the NBA.

The Bobcats have won eight of the past 10 meetings. The Lakers, 5-8 all-time against the NBA's newest team, hold a losing record against only one other club - the Boston Celtics.

This latest loss, full of missed shots and poor defense and coming on the heels of an ugly defeat in Orlando, left Jackson steamed.

"I'm embarrassed about what we did and that's it," Jackson said as he began to stroll away. "Thank you."

The Lakers then continued to keep the locker room closed to reporters, allowing Bryant to slip out and head to the bus after he scored 20 points. But Bryant missed 11 of his first 16 shots, got to the foul line only four times and committed five fouls as he played despite missing shootaround with an illness.

The weary Lakers, who had started this extended trip 4-0, will close it out Wednesday at Cleveland.

"Everything we do is obviously going to be compared to what we've done the last two seasons," guard Derek Fisher said. "But this is an entirely different team. Half of our roster is new, so there are still things we're learning about ourselves."

So are the Bobcats, who completed a bizarre eight-day stretch in which they also beat Eastern Conference heavyweights Boston and Atlanta and lost to unheralded Indiana and New Jersey as they try to secure the final playoff spot in the East.

But the Bobcats always seem to beat the Lakers.

"I think even though they're bigger than us, we're quicker and more athletic than them," Wallace said. "We get up and run up and down the floor. We're able to control their bigs and control Kobe for the most parts of the game. I think that's what helps us out a lot in this matchup."

This one wasn't even close—and got ugly in the fourth quarter.

Jackson had used all but one of his full timeouts before Wallace's 3-point shot at the third-quarter buzzer put Charlotte ahead 78-60.

Bryant then picked up two quick fouls, giving him five and helping the Bobcats reach the penalty with 10:51 left. It appeared Jackson tried to teach his starters a lesson, keeping them in the game until midway through the period as Charlotte's lead ballooned with reserves Henderson and Nazr Mohammed (16 points) leading the charge.

"Pretty upset about what happened out there," said Pau Gasol, who had 17 points and 10 rebounds.



Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom, left, sits and watches the final seconds tick away with teammates Kobe Bryant, middle, and Ron Artest, right, against the Charlotte Bobcats in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Feb. 14, 2011.

History should have predicted this one.

After losing the first three meetings with the Lakers after entering the league in 2004, the Bobcats have lost to the Lakers only twice. It doesn't seem to matter Charlotte has had four coaches during that stretch and overhauled its roster several times.

"This is probably the biggest, monumental win for the Bobcats and probably the biggest loss for them," Charlotte coach Paul Silas said. "It was huge."

Bryant missed nine of 13 shots, including two airballs, while he was often harassed by Henderson in a miserable first half. The Lakers committed 10 turnovers, missed six of seven 3-pointers and trailed by as many as 11 points.

The Bobcats took control in the third quarter and shot 51 percent for the game despite their own concerns going in.

D.J. Augustin had seven points and nine assists despite missing shootaround with a sprained left wrist. Silas said forward Boris Diaw wouldn't start after he overslept and missed shootaround, but he changed his mind and Diaw had 16 points.

It marked another loss for Jackson against the Michael Jordan-owned Bobcats. Jordan, who won six titles as a player under Jackson in Chicago, didn't attend the game.

"I wish I knew clearly why we lost the game the way we did," Gasol said. "Everything that could have gone wrong, pretty much we did wrong."

Hawks 94, Pistons 79

At Auburn Hills, Josh Smith had 27 points and 14 rebounds as the Hawks rallied for a victory over the Pistons.

Atlanta trailed by as many as 15 points in the second quarter but held the Pistons to 28 percent shooting in the second half as they pulled away to win.

Mike Bibby added 17 points, seven assists and six rebounds for the Hawks, while Marvin Williams had 15 points.

Detroit had five players score in double figures, but Tracy McGrady led the Pistons with just 14. Detroit scored only 28 points in the second half as it lost for the fourth time in five games.

The Pistons made their first six 3-point attempts before Charlie Villanueva missed early in the second quar-

ter, and didn't commit their first turnover until moments later.

Spurs 102, Nets 85

At Newark, Manu Ginobili scored 10 of his 22 points in a game-breaking second-half run and the Spurs put in another dominant performance with a victory over the Nets.

Tim Duncan added 15 points and 11 rebounds, Tony Parker had 13 points, six rebounds and seven assists and DeJuan Blair had 10 points and 11 rebounds as the Spurs won for the ninth time in 11 games and 17th in 20.

San Antonio's 46-9 record is tops in the NBA and the best 55-game mark since the Avery Johnson-coached Dallas Mavericks had the same mark in 2006-07 en route to a franchise-best, 67-win season.

Cardinals, Pujols extend contract deadline



JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals and representatives for Albert Pujols have agreed to a 24-hour extension to reach a new contract out of respect for Stan Musial.

The Cardinals Hall of Famer will be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in Washington on Tuesday and general manager John Mozeliak said Monday the club did not want to distract from Musial's special day. Chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. and Mozeliak will accompany the 90-year-old Musial to Washington.

Pujols' agent, Dan Lozano, originally set a Tuesday deadline, the first workout day for pitchers and catchers in Jupiter, Fla. Mozeliak said the new deadline is noon (EST) Wednesday.

Pujols is due to make \$16 million this season in the final year of his contract, with \$4 million of the total deferred without interest.

The 31-year-old Pujols is seeking a contract, perhaps as long as a decade in length, that would make him one of the highest paid players in the major leagues and allow him to retire as a Cardinal.

Even if a deal can't be reached by Wednesday, the Cardinals were hopeful of keeping the All-Star first baseman. Numerous times the last few seasons and again at last month's Win-

ter Brook Lopez had 11 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Nets, who never led in the final roughly 30 minutes.

Trail Blazers 95, Timberwolves 81

At Minneapolis, Wesley Matthews had 23 points while LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 to lead the Trail Blazers to a victory over the Timberwolves.

Dante Cunningham had career highs with 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Blazers, who have now won 16 straight games against the Timberwolves and five in a row overall, their longest winning streak of the season.

Kevin Love finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds, just barely extending his double-double streak to 41 games, the longest since Moses Malone had 44 in a row in the 1982-83 season. He

only attempted seven shots and was outworked all night by Cunningham and Aldridge.

Martell Webster led the Wolves with 17 points.

Bucks 102, Clippers 78

At Milwaukee, Carlos Delfino scored 21 of his 26 points in the second half and made a career-high seven 3-pointers to lead the Bucks to a victory over the Clippers.

Everyone pitched in for the short-handed Bucks, who came in losers of seven of the last eight.

John Salmons added 16 points and tied a career-high with 12 assists for Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 20 points to match his best performance since returning from surgery and Luc Mbah a Moute finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Mbah a Moute did an admirable job trying to slow Clippers' star Blake Griffin, who still finished with 19 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

The Clippers have one win from seven matches to start their 11-game, 21-day road trip.

Rockets 121, Nuggets 102

At Houston, Courtney Lee scored 22 points and Shane Battier added 17 as Houston shot well from 3-point range and controlled Carmelo Anthony in a win over Denver.

Aaron Brooks had 18 points off the bench and Luis Scola added 10 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who shook off a bad offensive start to go 14-for-32 from 3-point range (44 percent) and beat the Nuggets for the second time in a week. Houston won 108-103 in Denver last Monday, despite Anthony's 50 points.

Anthony scored 16 points on 4-for-14 shooting and didn't leave the bench in the fourth quarter. He was held under 20 points for the first time in nine games.

ter Warmup fan festival in St. Louis, Pujols has expressed his desire to stay with the Cardinals.

Pujols is the only player in major league history to hit 30 or more home runs in his first 10 seasons, belting 42 with 117 RBIs last year while finishing second in MVP balloting behind the Reds' Joey Votto. He's had 100 RBIs all 10 seasons, has scored 100 runs in all except one season, finishing with 99 runs in 2007, and has drawn 100 walks in each of the last three seasons.

DeWitt has referred to Pujols as "irreplaceable," but he would be 41 at the end of a 10-year contract and presumably not nearly so productive.

Mozeliak would not characterize the tenor of the negotiations, sticking to an agreement about keeping the process private.

"Given the timing of everything we will remain quiet at this time," Mozeliak said. "I don't want to lead people on or characterize something one way or the other. Our approach has been pretty consistent since Day 1 and that's to allow this to be done in a confidential state. Given we are only 48 hours from the deadline I'll remain that way."

Mozeliak said there was no frustration from the Cardinals' side.

"No, not at all," he said. "It's a process. It's an iconic player. When you experience going through this you learn

a lot. Frustration isn't coming from us."

Neither Mozeliak nor manager Tony La Russa expect the Pujols situation to become a distraction if an agreement is not reached.

"Part of the big leagues is dealing with distractions," La Russa said. "Every club has them and the clubs that give into them are soft and weak. The clubs that are strong put the distractions where they belong, which is not to be distracted. Whatever the distractions are, our club is not going to have that excuse."

Outfielder Matt Holliday said recently that he didn't expect the situation affect Pujols' play.

"I think it could be more of an annoyance to him than necessarily a distraction to the team," Holliday said. "I'm sure he'll grow tired of answering questions if he has to."

Pitchers and catchers worked out for the first time Monday at Roger Dean Stadium. La Russa said he didn't mention the Pujols situation when he spoke with the club.

The manager said he'd spoken with Pujols, but is staying out of the contract issue.

"I don't give Albert advice that is unnecessary," La Russa said. "Albert is very smart, very compassionate in everything, whether it's his profession or his personal life. He knows how to handle himself."

NFL files charge against union with labor board



WASHINGTON (AP)—The NFL filed an unfair labor practice charge against its players' union with the National Labor Relations Board on Monday.

The league's filing says the union "consistently has failed to confer in good faith" during negotiations for a new contract and the union's "conduct amounts to surface bargaining and an anticipatory refusal to bargain."

A statement e-mailed to The Associated Press by union spokesman George Atallah says the NFL's "claim has absolutely no merit."

The NLRB is a federal agency that enforces the nation's labor laws and referees labor-management disputes.

The current collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of the day March 3. The NFL Players Association has said it expects the owners to lock out players; the NFL's filing with

the NLRB says that the union wants to "run out the clock" and, essentially, avoid reaching a new CBA so it can decertify and file an antitrust lawsuit.

Players already have voted, team-by-team, to authorize decertifying their union if a new CBA isn't reached by the deadline.

The NFLPA already decertified in 1989, then returned as a union in 1993, when a contract was reached with the league that provided for free agency. That landmark CBA was renewed or restructured several times since 1993, including in 2006. The owners opted out of that most recent deal in 2008.

Under the heading "Basis of the Charge," the NFL says in Monday's filing with the NLRB that during current negotiations, the union delayed the scheduling of bargaining sessions; failed to "respond in a timely and/or meaningful manner" to owners' contract proposals; and insisted on "dis-

closure of financial data to which the NFLPA has no legal right and then suspending negotiations unless and until such data is produced."

The league's filing also accuses the NFLPA of "engaging in other actions demonstrating that the union has approached these negotiations with no intent to reach agreement through good faith collective bargaining."

Atallah's e-mailed statement said: "The players didn't walk out and the players can't lock out. Players want a fair, new and long-term deal. We have offered proposals and solutions on every issue the owners have raised."

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues; under the old deal, the owners receive \$1 billion off the top, and they want to increase that to \$2 billion before players get their share.

Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to ex-

pand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players.

The NFL and union went more than two months without holding any formal bargaining sessions, until a meeting Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once last week but called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The NFL has not missed games due to labor strife since 1987, when the players went on strike and the owners continued the season with replacement players.

Making reference to the 1989 decertification, the NFL's filing says: "As in the past, the NFLPA's threatened disclaimer as the representative of the players, together with the now-familiar antitrust litigation that is expected to follow, is a ploy and an unlawful sub-

version of the collective bargaining process, there being no evidence whatsoever of any (let alone widespread) disaffection with the union by its members."

Owners to meet March 3

NFL owners will meet on March 3, the final day of the current collective bargaining agreement.

It is possible the owners will call for a lockout of the players if negotiations with the union are not progressing sufficiently.

All 32 owners are expected to be at the meeting in Fort Lauderdale that follows two days of committee meetings that were previously scheduled.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith repeatedly has said he expects a lockout. Talks broke down last week in Washington.

The owners opted out of the CBA in 2008.

Ronaldo retires, ending magnificent soccer career

SAO PAULO (AP)—A tearful Ronaldo said goodbye to soccer, having finally met an opponent he couldn't overcome.

His body no longer able to meet the demands of the game, the 34-year-old striker retired Monday. He ends a magnificent career in which he won two World Cups with Brazil and thrived with some of Europe's top teams. He played 18 years despite repeated knee trouble and leaves as a three-time FIFA Player of the Year and the top goal scorer in World Cup history.

"It's very hard to leave something that made me so happy," Ronaldo said at a news conference, with sons Alex and Ronald by his side. "Mentally, I wanted to continue, but I have to acknowledge that I lost (the fight) to my body."

Now he confronts a new stage, shadowed by all that's left behind.

"With this announcement," he said, "it feels like it's my first death."

Ronaldo said a string of injuries the past two years kept him from playing at a high level with the Brazilian club Corinthians. He also learned four years ago he had hypothyroidism, making it difficult for him to lose weight and stay in shape.

"The pain made me anticipate the end of my career," Ronaldo said. "It hurts when I go up the stairs - people who are close to me know this. I've given my life to football. I don't regret anything, but I can't keep going."

Ronaldo blamed the excessive number of games and practices for his physical decline. A muscle injury last week was the final blow.

"I thought about it at home and realized that it was time," he said. "I had given everything that I had."

With his uncanny sprints toward the goal and an extraordinary finishing touch, Ronaldo captivated fans everywhere he played, including Barcelona, Real Madrid and Inter Milan. All despite having to come back from three serious knee injuries that threatened his career.

"My career was beautiful, was wonderful," he said. "I've had many

defeats but infinite victories."

Ronaldo's contract with Corinthians was expected to end at the end of the year, but his condition kept deteriorating. He was visibly out of shape and fans jeered him after every missed play.

The announcement came days after he was heavily criticized by Corinthians fans for the team's elimination from the Copa Libertadores, Latin America's most important competition and the only major tournament the popular club has yet to win.

Fans damaged players' cars and threw rocks at the team bus, but Ronaldo said that did not play a part in his retirement. With his voice cracking, he said he wanted to only thank Corinthians fans for their support.

"I've never seen fans with so much passion," he said. "Their need for results sometimes made them a little aggressive, a bit out of control."

Ronaldo's exit comes two days after former Brazil teammate Roberto Carlos left Corinthians because he and his family were threatened by fans after the Copa Libertadores elimination. Corinthians players already had been under pressure since last year, when the club failed to win titles despite celebrating its centenary.

"I want to publicly apologize for failing in the Libertadores project," Ronaldo said, crying, before team President Andres Sanchez handed him a jersey with the words "forever" and "phenomenon."

The last of Ronaldo's more than 400 career goals came on a penalty kick in a 1-0 win over Cruzeiro in the Brazilian league on Nov. 13. The last match was the 2-0 Copa Libertadores loss to Deportes Tolima on Feb. 2 in Colombia.

Ronaldo was part of the World Cup squad that won the 1994 title in the United States, although he was a teenager and never played. He was the team's top star in France in 1998, but just before the final he had seizures in the team hotel and did not play well in the game won by the French.

"Ronaldo is the best player I ever



Brazil's soccer star Ronaldo looks on during a press conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 14, 2011.

played with," former Inter Milan teammate Youri Djorkaeff, who also played against Ronaldo in the 1998 World Cup final, told French RMC radio. "But he was also a very engaging person. When we were training, he would always come up with crazy dribbles. We would practically stop to

watch him. It was extraordinary."

Ronaldo peaked with the national team in 2002, helping Brazil win the tournament in South Korea and Japan with two goals in the final against Germany. He was voted Player of the Year, adding to the awards won in 1996 and 1997.

He was among those who disappointed in the 2006 World Cup in Germany, when Brazil fell to the French again in the quarterfinals. But he did score his record-breaking 15th goal, a mark that still stands.

Ronaldo also helped Brazil win the 1997 and 1999 Copa America, as well as the 1997 Confederations Cup and a bronze medal at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Ronaldo scored 67 goals in 104 games with Brazil, but was never again called up to the national team after the uninspired performance in 2006. There were calls for his return to the squad after he helped Corinthians win the 2009 Brazilian Cup, but he was never able to get back in shape.

In all, injuries sidelined him for nearly three years. He tore up his right knee with Inter Milan in 1999 and needed surgery. A year later, he twisted the same knee on the day he was returning and had was sidelined for several months again after another operation. The third injury came with AC Milan in 2008, forcing more surgery and another long layoff.

Ronaldo began his professional career with Cruzeiro in 1993. He was 16 and it didn't take long for him to stun fans across Brazil. He moved to PSV Eindhoven that year, becoming the club's top scorer and earning a transfer to Barcelona in 1996.

He quickly became an idol at the Spanish club, scoring 34 goals in 37 matches in the Spanish league and helping the club win the Copa del Rey. A year later he signed with Inter Milan, winning the 1998 UEFA Cup and earning the nickname "The Phenomenon."

He moved to Real Madrid in 2002, one of the few players revered by fans of both Spanish powers. He helped Real Madrid win the Spanish league in 2003 and 2007. After that season he joined AC Milan, but his third knee injury cut short his stay.

Ronaldo is a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Program. He played a big role in organizing the "Game for Peace" in Haiti in 2004, when the Brazilians visited the country devastated by gang wars.

X-clusive slips past Calikano, takes win No. 2

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

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SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Island Apparel X-clusive notched its second win in as many games after edging out Calikano Groupers, 11-10, in the first match in the 2nd Annual Chamolinian Softball Association Budweiser Slow-pitch League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

In the women's division, Check It Out evened out its record to a win and a loss after defeating T&C Clan, 6-2, in the second game. T&C is still in search of its first win after two tries.

Then Salty Boyz improved to a pair of wins and a loss with a big 22-10 thrashing of Berdax in the late night men's match.



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Check It Out's Shalane Beltau swings during their game against T&C Clan in the Chamolinian softball league on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Berdax fell to a 1-2 record, the same slate Calikano has.

Natibu leads the men's league with a 2-0 record; Your Balls, Phat Boys and Man Amigos hold identical 1-0 slates; Gorillaz and V-Power have an even 1-1 card; Bradahs, G-Ballers, Team Fa-

milia, Team Laolao Bay share similar 0-1 slates; and Red-Eye owns a 0-2 mark.

Men's softball action continues tonight starting at 6:30pm with V-Power taking on Your Balls. Then at 7:30pm, Red-Eye challenges Natibu, while G-Ballers meet Laolao Bay at 8:30pm.

X-clusive 11, Calikano Groupers 10

X-clusive hit the board first with a pair of runs off errors in the bottom of the second inning. Groupers failed to answer to start the third and X-clusive jumped ahead, 5-0, in the bottom frame. Three hits, a double, and a sacrifice fly scored Ralph Yumul, Bob Castro, and J.J. Cabrera.

Groupers' top of the order rallied back with four runs in the fourth. Two hits, two doubles, two errors, and a walk scored Navan and Ben Falig, Jess Magofna, and Ton Pangelinan.

Then X-clusive's Angel Reyes drove in John Cepeda in the bottom frame for a 6-4 lead.

Groupers managed a run to start the fifth, but X-clusive answered with two runs in the bottom half of the inning.

After a quiet sixth, Groupers took the lead 10-8 in the top of

the seventh.

Dante Sablan's lead off solo homer ignited the five-run string. The other four runs came in off two hits, two doubles, and errors.

X-Clusive started the last inning with three hits that brought in one run. Then a ground out later Cabrera hammered a two-RBI game winner. He batted 4-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs

Check It Out 6, T&C Clan 2

Check It broke the ice in the first inning with a run off an error. Then Check It Out added two runs in the bottom of the second, also primarily off errors.

T&C managed a pair of runs in the top of the fourth from a two-RBI single by Antonette Laniyo, but Check It Out fired back with three runs in the bottom frame off two walks, two hits, and an error, and sat on its lead for the remainder of the contest.

Salty Boyz 22, Berdax 10

Berdax struck first with four runs in the top of the first inning.

Salty answered with five runs in the bottom half without swinging. Salty's first five batters reached off a hit and four walks. Berdax made a pitching change after the fifth walk, but the damage was already done.

Berdax managed a run to start the second off a leadoff solo homer by Larry Robert, but Salty answered with three runs in the bottom frame to go ahead, 8-5.

Berdax scored a pair of runs in the top of the third, but Salty blew open the game with 11 runs in the bottom half of the inning. Nine of their 11 players all reached and scored; Dan Repeki and JD Dikito made it around twice. Salty did it with three RBI singles, two RBI doubles, a couple errors, a three-run homer by Harlan Reyes, and a two-run bomb by Mel Aldan, who went 3-for-3 with two homers, six RBIs, and three runs.

MOBIL

From Page 28

Apelo arrived for the match in the third quarter.

Mobil was without Estolas, but Banjo Basila reported for the game and contributed 18 points to fill the void the Mobil guard left on the team's offense. Larry Sharry also stepped up, tallying a game-high 20 points, 12 of them in the fourth quarter where Mobil was clearly headed to an easy win.

Three other Mobil players scored in double figures, help-

ing coach Marvin Deocares relax despite the absence of Estolas. Bon Tamayo fired 16 points, Marvin Rabauliman chipped in 15, and Gil Gapor logged 14.

After missing a couple of games, Basila made his presence felt on the court, hitting four triples in the opening quarter and lifting Mobil to a 26-20 lead. Despite its hot shooting from the 3-point area, Mobil failed to pull away in the first half, as it led by only seven at the break, 44-37.

Then the right time for Mobil came in the third period, as Marvin Rabauliman led the

team's breakaway. Rabauliman scored 12 of his total points in the third canto, capitalizing on Prospect's failure to go back on transition defense. By the end of the third quarter, Mobil's lead had ballooned to 18, 66-48, and the depleted Prospects never recovered from thereon.

Satbahi 86, Rollers 73

In the first game, Satbahi outclassed Rollers, 86-73.

It was Satbahi's third win in five games, while Rollers dropped to a 1-4 mark, failing to make a follow-up on their 97-90 victory over Prospects last week.

Rollers kept pace with Satbahi in the first three quarters only to run out of offensive options in the payoff period.

Rollers had only Juan Ogarto making more than a field goal in the fourth canto where Satbahi outgunned them, 25-18. Manny Matagolai had a game-high 25 points for Rollers, but was held to two points in the fourth quarter.

Satbahi drew field goals from multiple players in the final period and four players ended up scoring in double figures and two more drilled at least eight points apiece. Glenn Aquino top-scored for

Satbahi with 20 markers.

First Game

Satbahi 86 – Aquino 20, Abuel 15, Mortos 13, Paraiso 12, Sison 8, Demapan 8, Sablan 4, Camacho 3, Mangali 2, Concepcion 1, Palacios 1.

Rollers 73 – Matagolai 25, Ogarto 19, Hambros 9, Reyes 6, Metran 5, Teregeyo 4, Ulloa 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 45-37, 61-55, 86-73.

Second Game

Mobil 97 – Sharry 20, Basila 18, Tamayo 16, Rabauliman 15, Gapor 14, Artates 7, Gamboa 7.

Prospects 72 – Inos 18, Chariton 17, Moises 15, D. Aughenbaugh 11, Dayrit 8, Apelo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 26-20, 44-37, 66-48, 97-72.

TENNIS

From Page 28

associate instructor certificate, 80 to 85 percent is for instructor; and 86 to 90 percent is for assistant teaching pro.

Loyola received the good news two months after taking the examination.

“Congratulations! You have successfully completed PTR's certification exam and are now listed with us as a certified professional. Thank you for helping grow the game and selecting PTR,” PTR director of development Steve Keller said in his letter to Loyola.

Loyola said getting the highest ranking (certified pro) is a dream come true.

“When I started teaching tennis, I always thought of joining

PTR. I became a member in 2007, but still I wanted to get a certification, as that would sort of validate the knowledge I am sharing with tennis players here. Being a PTR member is different from being certified. Getting a pro certification gives me a sense of pride, as I will be joining the company of other certified pros in the world,” Loyola sad.

Loyola is only the second instructor here on Saipan to get a pro certification. CNMI coach Jeff Race was the first PTR certified pro instructor here.

Besides teaching tennis, Loyola also plays in various tournaments here and in Guam. Last year, he represented the CNMI in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau and won silver medals in the men's singles and team event.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

also outlasted the Speaker Eli D. Cabrera-Rep. Fred DL Guerrero Kagman Lions, 10-6, on February 6. Although Northern fell to the IT&E, it outlasted the Hustlers, 5-4, in extra innings back on Feb. 5

SLLB action continues tomorrow with Senior League teams Tan Holdings Fielders and the Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets squaring off at 6pm at the Tan Ko ballfield.

Ol'Aces 9, Hustlers 6

The Ol'Aces scored early as leadoff man Diego Camacho drew a walk and reached home off an error in the top of the first inning, but the Hustlers bit back and took a 2-1 lead in the bottom frame.

Jeremy Lizama led off with a hit and scored off an error and two outs later Noki Saralu drew a walk and also came home off an error.

Action picked up in the third inning when the Aces jumped

ahead, 6-2. Eli Aughenbaugh and Keoni Lizama busted RBI singles before Roco Reyes cleared the bases with a three-RBI double.

The Hustlers managed only one run in the bottom half, while the Aces added two more to start the fourth frame. J.T. Taitano tripled in Camacho and Aughenbaugh brought him in an out later.

The Hustlers came up with just one run in the bottom frame, which the Aces got back in the top of the seventh. Then Hustlers got stuffed again with only two runs in their final stand, despite starting the frame with three doubles.

IT&E 9, Northern Stars 2

IT&E's Marvin Ngeskebei drove in two runs in the first inning, but was caught trying to stretch a double into a triple to end the frame.

The Northern Stars got a run back in the bottom of the second, but IT&E jumped ahead, 7-1, to start the third.

Then Northern managed its

second run in the bottom of the fourth, but IT&E added two more to its lead in the top of the sixth. Winning pitcher Nathan Guerrero went all seven and gave up a pair of runs. IT&E's Juan Maratita batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and one run. Kevin Villagomez batted 2-for-2 with three runs.

IT&E 10, Lions 6

IT&E broke the ice with a run in the top of the first inning and then made it 4-0 in the top of the second off wild pitching. The Lions went 1-2-3 in the bottom and Maratita doubled and stole home in the top of the third for IT&E.

The Lions finally hit the board in the bottom third, but IT&E shot ahead, 9-1, to start the fourth. Jonathan Celis drove in Jonah Villagomez and scored later off a wild pitch. Then Maratita brought in Mike Tenorio and stole home again.

The Lions managed three runs in the bottom fourth and two more in the bottom of the fifth, but IT&E maintained a good handle on the game from

that point. Maratita was 3-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs.

Northern Stars 5, Hustlers 4

The Hustlers managed a freebie run off a walk with the bases loaded in the bottom of the second, but the Hustlers got out of the jam.

Northern Stars took a 2-1 lead in the top of the fourth off a two-RBI single by Joaquin Castro, but Hustlers' John DL Guerrero stole home in the bottom frame to tie the game.

The game remained tied throughout regulation, and Northern's top of the order mustered three runs in the top of the eighth inning. Third batter Josh Jones doubled in Isaiah Lizama, Chris Myers grounded home Tomas Camacho, and Castro doubled home Jones.

The Hustlers needed three runs to force another extension, but came up one short.

Winning pitcher Josh Jones pitched seven and 2/3 innings and gave up four runs. He also batted 3-for-4 and had one RBI and two runs.

SETTSU

From Page 28

In 2009, during the team's first trip to Saipan, the Red Impulse cagebells won the championship against the MISO All-

Stars, 61-44. Shiho Tokimoto logged 19 points in Settsu's 2009 win, while Nakamori chipped in 16. In the boys division, Settsu finished third in the inaugural friendship caging and placed fourth last year.

In their first two trips on

Saipan, Settsu donated beautiful championship trophies for winning teams. The club also handed basketball equipment to BANMI last year, including balls, game vests, ball bags, and a state-of-the-art portable scoreboard/timer and 24 second shot clocks.

When Settsu returns to Saipan next month, they are expected to compete against players from the private and public schools here. The opening date, schedule of games, and other matters related to the friendship tournament will be announced later.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	39	14	.736	—
New York	27	26	.509	12
Philadelphia	26	28	.481	13 1/2
New Jersey	17	39	.304	23 1/2
Toronto	15	40	.273	25
Southeast Division				
Miami	39	15	.722	—
Atlanta	34	20	.630	5
Orlando	35	21	.625	5
Charlotte	24	31	.436	15 1/2
Washington	15	38	.283	23 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	36	16	.692	—
Indiana	24	28	.462	12
Milwaukee	21	33	.389	16
Detroit	20	36	.357	18
Cleveland	9	46	.164	28 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	46	9	.836	—
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	34	19	.642	—
Portland	31	24	.564	4
Utah	31	24	.564	4
Denver	31	25	.554	4 1/2
Minnesota	13	42	.236	22
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	38	18	.679	—
Phoenix	26	26	.500	10
Golden State	24	29	.453	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	35	.364	17 1/2
Sacramento	13	38	.255	22 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Charlotte 109, L.A. Lakers 89				
San Antonio 102, New Jersey 85				
Atlanta 94, Detroit 79				
Milwaukee 102, L.A. Clippers 78				
Portland 95, Minnesota 81				
Houston 121, Denver 102				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

MISO Boys Basketball League

Photos By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Grace Christian Academy's Angelo Salas, center, drives and draws a foul against Marianas High School's Ryan Ichihara, right, during their regular season game in the 2010-2011 MISO Boys Basketball League.



Grace Christian Academy's Dae Won Jeon pulls up for a floater against two Saipan Southern High School defenders.



Saipan Southern High School's Tristan Ecalnea goes up for a shot against MHS defenders.



Mt. Carmel School's Reynald Cabaltica makes a fastbreak basket.



Mt. Carmel School's Min Seong Kim pulls up for fallaway jumper against Grace Christian Academy's Brandon Chargualaf.



Marianas High School's Eddie Manalili goes up for a one-handed shot over Saipan Southern High School's Tristan Ecalnea.



Saipan Southern High School's Jimmy Tudela pulls up for a banked shot against Marianas High School's Ezra Caro.



Kagman High School's Juan Maratita makes an off-balanced shot.



Kagman High School's Jason Palacios, left, drives against Saipan Southern High School's Niko Salem.



Kagman High School's Kroy Ogo goes up for a shot against Saipan Southern High School defenders.

Bobcats continue mastery of Lakers, 109-89

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Ronaldo retires, ending magnificent soccer career

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mobil pounds Prospects in UBA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil played sans key player Jun Estolas, but still nailed a lopsided win over the skidding Prospects, 97-72, during the second game in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was fifth in six games for Mobil, putting the team in solo second place behind the undefeated NMC Proa (5-0). The defending champion Prospects has yet to win in six matches.

Prospects' bid to snap its losing skid suffered a big blow, as the defending champion played with a depleted line-up, fielding only five players in the first half before Leo

See MOBIL on Page 26



Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman goes up for a one-handed shot against Prospects' Perry Inos, right, and Joy Dayrit during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tennis coach gets pro certification

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis instructor Peter Loyola got a professional certification from Professional Tennis Registry.

The South Carolina-based Professional Tennis Registry is the largest organization of tennis teachers and coaches from around the world and has more than 14,000 members from 122 countries from Asia, Europe, and the U.S.

Loyola got his professional certification mid last year after taking a comprehensive five-part examination at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Guam. The examination includes written, skills, teaching, error detection, and drill tests and Loyola posted a combined 93 percent grade to earn the certified pro instructor title.

A certified pro rating is given to teachers who score more than 90 percent in the examination. Examinees with 75 percent grade get an

See TENNIS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO Peter Loyola, seen here training with the CNMI Team last year at the Pacific Islands Club, received a professional instructor certification from Professional Tennis Registry.

Ol'Aces edge Hustlers in Big League

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Randy Fenner Ol'Aces downed the Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers, 9-6, during their game in the Big League division of the Saipan

Little League Baseball on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Other Big League winners were IT&E and the Natibu Sports Association Northern Stars. IT&E defeated Northern, 9-2, last Sunday and

See OL'ACES on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND Ol'Aces' Eli Aughenbaugh takes a cut during their Big League game against the Hustlers on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Settsu cage club returns next month

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club will be back on Saipan for the third straight year to compete in the 2011 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament next month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Basketball Association of Northern Marianas' Gabriel White confirmed Settsu's return trip to Saipan, saying the goodwill tournament will be played in the last week of March. He added Settsu's girls and boys



A Settsu player goes up for a layup against Marianas High School defenders during the Osaka team's first tournament on Saipan in 2009. The visiting Japanese youth club will make its third trip here next month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

teams will play against three Saipan teams.

"We will have four teams each in the girls and boys divisions," White said.

Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club is a group based in northern Osaka and has players in the U17 age group. Susumu Sakaguchi coaches the club and also serves as director of SRI.

Last year, Settsu's girls team made it to the U17 finals against the MISO All-Stars, but lost the championship match, 75-54. Leading Settsu's losing effort were Honami Inui and Hirai Nakamori, who scored 15 and 14 points, respectively, against the Lia Rangamar-led MISO All-Stars.

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